



CSML

*Civil Society and Media Leadership Program*



**QUARTERLY REPORT**  
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarter which marks the final three months of 2014 and third quarter of CSML's fifth year of implementation was particularly eventful, largely as a result of the various activities CSML is implementing with partners in preparation for the Special Senatorial Election on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and the ongoing Ebola crisis. Notably, these two important concurrent priorities were also very much intertwined, with civic educators pushed to adapt their activities in light of Ebola-related restrictions, and the implications of who voters choose and why all the more pressing in light of this nationwide crisis that necessitates strong leadership.

Throughout the quarter, CSML worked alongside its partners to implement targeted Ebola-related activities, including holding 60 Community Leader Forums (CLFs) across 13 counties. These Forums provided a venue for local leadership to discuss the impacts of Ebola on their communities and strategize plans for mitigating those impacts. Many leaders expressed frustration that the government had not effectively engaged them when rolling out contact tracing or health response mechanisms which limited their effectiveness and local relevance. Additionally, they expressed concerns over the impacts of government-issued restrictions, for example the school closing prompted concerns about girls getting pregnant and boys getting involved in drugs because of lack of supervision. CSML's partner civil society organizations (CSOs) continue to work with these communities as they prepare to roll-out their action plans.

With CSML grant funds and/or support from their mentors, many partner CSOs led other targeted initiatives in their communities to respond to the Ebola crisis. Examples include the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) that organized a forum in West Point that resulted in a number of action points to help reduce tension in West Point following the death of a teenager from the community during protests at the height of the Ebola crisis; and Lofa County Network of Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LOFANET) that opened a safe house for orphans of Ebola as a result of proposal writing mentoring provided by its RP.

As the election approached, CSML and its partners faced serious challenges including the initial postponement of the October 14<sup>th</sup> election date, indecision among key decision makers as to when the election should be held, a Supreme Court issued "Stay Order," and eventually the announcement of the election date only seven days before the election was to be held. As a result, CSML and its partners had to remain flexible and creative throughout the quarter and particularly in December to ensure that the benefit of the intended activities was sustained and that the election was peaceful and without incident. Partners who contributed to these efforts included the National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NAYMOTE) that utilized their network of volunteers, two Vote Smart Vans, and Call Center to educate potential voters ahead of the Special Senatorial Election ; the Election Coordination Committee (ECC) that monitored the campaign period and election-day as a way of ensuring a violence free and transparent process; and the Girls' Media Frontiers initiative led by the Liberia Women Media Action Committee (LIWOMAC) that trained and empowered young female journalists to highlight the voices of women voters within a male-dominated media landscape.

Despite a challenging operating environment, CSML and its partners had an incredibly productive quarter, contributing meaningfully to the nation's fight to end Ebola, and to what resulted in a relatively peaceful election with reasonable participation from citizens, thanks to the widespread civic and voter education that CSML's partners facilitated. As this quarter ends and we enter the fourth and final quarter of Year Five, the CSML team will continue to work alongside its partners along with the Liberian government and other international stakeholders to combat the Ebola crisis, and ensure that the media and civil society sectors stand at the frontlines in this effort.

## 2. PROGRAM PURPOSE

*To sustain peace in Liberia through greater inclusion, giving a voice to, informing and engaging Liberian citizens.*

### 3. PROGRAM RESULTS

#### **Civil Society Partners Successfully Apply for E-CAP funding thanks to CSML Capacity Building and Encouragement**

CSML's civil society partners have pointed to the grants management and proposal writing training and general mentoring and capacity building support that CSML provides as a major contributor to their institutional capacity and potential to win grant funds from national and international donors. When Mercy Corps released an RFA for their "Ebola-Community Action Platform (E-CAP)" program, IREX worked alongside the RPs to encourage them to apply, and to include their mentees as partners in their proposals. Three of the RPs applied, and all won. In every case they included some of their CSO mentee partners as subgrantees, totaling five more CSOs. All three RPs have credited CSML directly for the capacity building and encouragement that brought them that success. The competition for the \$500,000-1,000,000 category included international CSOs as well as Liberian. Eddie Gboe, Executive Director of YMCA emphasized that "as an RP, the capacity gains are measurable and the results are telling in term of the YMCA's growing capacity to independently write and win additional new grants like the award under the USAID/Mercy Corps E-CAP...We are defining partnership together in the real sense of capacity building and mutual relationship with benefits to our targeted beneficiaries and communities."



#### **Girls Media Frontiers (GMF) Program Magnifies Women's Voices Across Liberia**



Despite gains achieved through CSML's Women's Media Initiative (WMI), there remains a gender gap among media professionals in Liberia. Opportunities for women as journalists are impeded by lack of training, limited access to equipment, and adherence among media outlets to the precedent of the "old boys club." Thanks to the Girls Media Frontiers (GMF) program, 24 young women from eight counties now have the knowledge, skills, equipment, and confidence to tell the stories of grassroots women in their communities. A two-week training led by an international consultant prepared the

women to write scripts, conduct press conferences, use film and audio equipment, and build confidence to tell powerful stories. By the end of the training participants developed radio programs highlighting important social issues including capturing women's views on the impact of Ebola on the election. Upon returning to their communities, some of the women developed strong content focused on women's views on the Special Senatorial Election which was aired on Election Day on Liberia Women Democracy Radio (LWDR). The Monrovia based GMF beneficiaries also produced two video reports that were aired on television. These young women will continue to be mentored under LWDR and designated regional mentors to encourage them to continue to tell women's stories through their reporting.

#### **Post-Election Violence Prevented thanks to the Efforts of Two CSML Grantees**

The historical precedence of post-election violence within the region and awareness of certain controversial candidates in the Special Senatorial Election led many to fear that the election might result in a widespread eruption of violence and protest. To prepare for this threat and mitigate risks, CSOs Feeding House Organization (FHO) and Gbarzon Youth Development Association (GBAYDA) in Grand Gedeh County utilized a CSML grant to train 10 people in each of four towns on to perform skits on causes of election violence. They were also trained as community mobilizers to work to promote non-violence. One of the towns was Jarwodee, the administrative seat of Gbarzon Statutory District. When the election results were heard there, supporters of a losing candidate set up barricades to obstruct supporters of the winning candidate from moving through town to celebrate. The people who benefited from the two-day training immediately organized themselves and moved in to intervene. They worked with the



losing party's supporters as they had practiced in their training and were able to restore peace, which has been sustained since then.

### **Community Radio Journalist Uses SMS Initiative to Uncover and Dispel Ebola Related Misinformation**

Many point to early myths and misinformation about Ebola as being a major contributing factor to the high incidence rates of the virus early on. For example, in Nimba County, a man known as the "Vision Man" claimed publically that he could cure Ebola with an herb remedy given to him by an Angel. To gauge the public perception of this man's claims, the Hub Operator at Radio Kergeahman in Ganta utilized the Opinion Poll component of the SMS Initiative to ask listeners whether they believed that the Vision Man could cure Ebola. Over 66% of the 121 individuals who voted affirmed that they did in fact believe the man's claims. Recognizing the risks to public health, the Hub Operator



contacted the UNICEF Ebola Awareness representative for Nimba County and invited him on the program. In a live interactive talk show the representative clarified the facts about the virus and confirmed that there was no cure, herbal or otherwise, and clarified the risks posed to those who do not seek formal care when showing symptoms of the virus. This program was seen to have shifted public perception about the Vision Man considerably, which Radio Kergeahman views as a considerable success for their station.

### **ECC Conducts Nationwide Monitoring In Spite of Significant Barriers and Gains International Notoriety**



All organizations involved in activities around the Special Senatorial Election faced considerable challenges this year, including the Ebola crisis and its impact on mobility and national priorities. There was also a last minute change to the election date giving the nation only seven days to prepare, decide, and ultimately vote. The Election Coordination Committee (ECC) was arguably most impacted by these barriers, as they had to organize training for 2,000 election observers in 15 counties within a period of six days. Working in partnership with six of its member organizations, CSO trainings were conducted, tools disseminated, and observers were

dispatched across the country in time for the election. The efforts were recognized by representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) who, following the election, invited ECC to send three individuals to support observation of the upcoming election in Nigeria. This invitation represents an important professional opportunity for those individuals as well as a nod to the legitimacy and efforts of the ECC and their work throughout the election, particularly in the face of considerable challenges.

## **4. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

### **4.1. MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW**

Throughout this quarter IREX continued to remain flexible and sensitive to the ongoing Ebola situation, and adjust policies and protocol accordingly. Overall the team has demonstrated impressive resilience and empathy for one another through a challenging time in the history of this program, and of Liberia. Fortunately, as this quarter comes to an end and the next begins, we are seeing a considerable drop in new Ebola cases, the removal of nationally imposed restrictions, the opening of schools, and a general shift in mentality. Despite these positive gains, we, and the rest of the country and region, remain fully aware of the risks of complacency and the need for ongoing vigilance.

In early October the Senior Media Specialist and Senior Civil Society Specialist returned to Liberia after approximately eight weeks spent working out of IREX Headquarters in Washington D.C. Throughout the quarter all staff continued to work five days a week from the office, with a slightly shortened work day schedule to allow for pick up and drop off of all staff by IREX drivers as a means to reduce risk to staff who typically depend on public transportation. IREX also continued to provide hand washing stations at the entrance of the compound and the office, and the Office Assistant continues to take the temperature of all staff twice per day, as well as the temperature of all visitors to the IREX office.

In mid-November, as a reflection of the improving circumstances and great reduction in new cases, travel restrictions were lifted by the Chief of Party for IREX staff, broadening opportunities for IREX staff to conduct monitoring and mentoring in the field. Partners were also advised to resume program-related travel, allowing CSML mentors to commence in-field mentoring. The situation and risks will continue to be weighed by the IREX team in coordination with our HQ and others to ensure that these policies and procedures continue to adapt based on the current situation.

## **4.2. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND IT**

### **4.2.1. FINANCE**

#### **4.2.1.1. PERFORM ROUTINE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

##### **4.2.1.1.1. ENSURE ONGOING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF CSML**

Throughout the quarter payments were made on contracts, Ebola-related and Special Senatorial elections activities, and later on regular mentoring and training subgrants, thereby maintaining the program burn rate. Program expenditure for the quarter amounted to US\$753,000.00 representing approximately 30% of the annual budget of \$2,482,000.00.

##### **4.2.1.1.2. PERFORM ONGOING SUPPORT TO SUBGRANTEES ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Throughout the quarter, the Finance Office worked with Grants and Program departments to process milestone payments for forty-three (43) subgrants for Ebola-related activities and Special Senatorial Election activities, and regular mentoring and training of CSOs/CRSs. Milestone payments for Ebola response activities enabled subgrantees to hold forums in various counties to discuss risks of civil unrest and potential strategies to mitigate various threats during the Ebola crisis, while payments for Senatorial election activities enabled subgrantees to reactivate the Election Reporting Center (ERC), host live senatorial debates, and carry out various other activities.

### **4.2.2. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **4.2.2.1. ENSURE THAT US-HIRES' DOCUMENTATION IS UP-TO-DATE**

The Administration Office obtained a work permit renewal for the Senior Media Specialist (Maureen Sieh) for 2014-2015 from the Ministry of Labor during the reporting period.

#### **4.2.2.2. RENEW SERVICE CONTRACTS AND OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT**

Renewal of registration documents for five vehicles (four on loan to our partners and one for office operations) were completed during the quarter. This concluded registration and renewal of all vehicle documents for the year 2014.

#### **4.2.2.3. ENSURE IKFO IS UPDATED ON A TIMELY BASIS**

During the quarter, the Administration Office uploaded salary change documents for all local staff based on Annual Performance Reviews to the iKFO system, and ensured the system was updated on a regular basis.

#### **4.2.2.4. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AS NEEDED**

The Administration Office continued to provide ongoing support to all departments during the reporting period. Monthly staff lists for the quarter were completed and sent to HQ, and all routine administrative activities were carried out successfully.

### **4.2.3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

#### **4.2.3.1. PROVIDE ONGOING IT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE TO IREX**

During the Quarter, the IT Officer provided routine computer maintenance to the IREX team. Earlier in the quarter the IT Officer worked with ISP Novaphone to install and test their internet for the IREX office. After a two-week trial, it was decided that IREX would return to our previous provider, Powernet. The IT Officer also supported the Media Team throughout the quarter to help the Liberia Media Center (LMC) to purchase and install all of the necessary equipment for the Election Reporting Center (ERC) (see section 5.9.5.).

#### **4.2.3.2. PROVIDE IT SUPPORT TO CSML PARTNERS**

##### **4.2.3.2.1. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO PUL WITH OMRCH**

The IT Officer provided support to the Online Media Resources Clearing House (OMRCH) during the quarter including checking in with the web master to ensure that stories are being uploaded, that all components of the site are fully functional, and monitored the social media component of the site, for more detailed information on the status of the OMRCH see section 5.5.6.

##### **4.2.3.2.2. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO LMC WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF SMS INITIATIVE**

The IT Officer provided support to the LMC during the quarter. He worked with the IT Officer at the LMC to change the public IP (internet protocol) of the platform. The new public IP of the platform is <http://81.199.96.23/>. The IT Officer is in constant contact with the SMS manager and the hub operators to ensure they have full support to continue running the platform.

The IT Officer also provided support to the LMC team for the SMS Refresher Workshop (see section 5.7.1.2.1.) and the installation of the SMS platform at LWDR (see section 5.7.1.1.).

## **5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSOS AND FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA (WORKPLAN 1.)**

### **5.1. FULLY INTEGRATE CSML PARTNERS AND ENHANCE COLLABORATION (WORKPLAN 1.1.)**

#### **5.1.1. ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITHIN CSML (WORKPLAN 1.1.1.)**

##### **5.1.1.1. HOST WEEKLY PROGRAM MEETINGS (WORKPLAN 1.1.1.1.)**

The IREX Program Team continued to meet every Tuesday mornings at 9am as consistently as possible to discuss upcoming programming activities, coordinate logistics, and discuss relevant concerns and assorted topics.

Additionally, the Program team met several times earlier in the quarter to plan adjustments to activities in light of several priority issues including the Special Senatorial Election, the ongoing Ebola crisis, and the No Cost Extension (NCE) that IREX received from USAID in September to extend programming through May 31, 2015. This includes a full-day Program Team meeting on October 14th to discuss changes to the Year Five Workplan and a meeting with partners on October 16th (see section 5.1.2.1.).

#### **5.1.2. ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITH AND AMONG PARTNERS (WORKPLAN 1.1.2.)**



#### 5.1.2.1. HOLD SEMI-MONTHLY PROGRAM COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS (WORKPLAN 1.1.2.1.)

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, IREX held a meeting with all Main Partners to review the Year Five Annual Workplan and discuss implementation plans and necessary adjustments in light of the election, Ebola crisis, and the NCE IREX received in September. The meeting focused on engaging partners to offer their insights on what activities were possible in light of the current restrictions and concerns around Ebola, and respond to targeted questions that were identified during the Program Team meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> (see section 5.1.1.1.). The key take-aways from this meeting were incorporated into a revised Year Five Workplan document (see Attachment 1).

#### 5.1.2.2. HOST LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST MEETINGS (WORKPLAN 1.1.2.3.)

On November 21<sup>st</sup> IREX held a Leadership Breakfast at the Royal Grand Hotel with Executive Directors (EDs)/Heads of various Main Partners. EDs in attendance represented LMC, YMCA, Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL), and LIWOMAC who joined IREX staff including the Chief of Party, Senior Media and Civil Society Specialists, the Senior Media Program Officer, Senior RSC Coordinator, and Senior Program Manager. The discussion for the Breakfast focused on the upcoming Special Senatorial Election and concerns regarding potential risks for violence, particularly in Montserrado County. The partners and IREX staff brainstormed strategies to mitigate the risk of this potential violence, and outlined clear action items for each of their institutions, and for CSML as a program.

IREX will continue to hold these Breakfast meetings once every two months, with the next meeting planned for January or February 2015.

### 5.2. OBJECTIVE ONE: (WORKPLAN 1.2.)

#### 5.2.1. ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF RESOURCE PARTNERS (RPS) (WORKPLAN 1.2.1)

##### 5.2.1.1. ENHANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION CAPACITY OF MAIN PARTNERS (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.1.)

*Two (2) RPs reported developing their own tools for their M&E needs and to assist a mentee partner organization.*

At the October partners' meeting, M&E training and mentoring for MPs was discussed and evaluated, and it was agreed that the M&E team would not continue group training on specific topics because the M&E Coordinators are at different levels of capacity and interest. Instead, the team will provide differentiated one-on-one mentoring and training support to M&E Coordinators according to their needs.

In addition two RPs were designing M&E tools for their own and their mentee partners' use:

- The New Africa Research Development Agency (NARDA) M&E Coordinator developed a new tool to augment the data in the mentoring checklist by better capturing issues discussed. She also devised a tool to better track activities implemented under the Ebola and elections grants.
- NARDA's new tools for monitoring election and Ebola awareness activities are also being used by its mentee partner Flomo Theater.
- WONGOSOL worked along with the Bassa Concerned Citizens Movement (BCCM) in developing a tracking form for tracing Ebola related cases in Buchanan and its environs.

##### 5.2.1.2. HOLD REFRESHER TRAINING FOR RPS IN SMS PLATFORM FOR GAUGING CITIZENS' PRIORITIES (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.2.)

*Three (3) RP representatives took part in a refresher workshop to enhance CSOs' use and creativity of the SMS platform.*

One representative of each RP was invited to take part in an IREX-LMC SMS refresher workshop which brought together the SMS Hub Operators, CRS Station Managers, LWDR, as well as LMC and the RPs. The workshop provided for experience sharing, where examples were given of using poll results to engage local government actors and bring about change. Participants worked on developing potential questions related to the upcoming Senatorial election and Ebola, as well as how the election could be held without jeopardizing citizens' health during the Ebola crisis. A more detailed description of the refresher workshop is available in section 5.7.1.2.1.

#### 5.2.1.3. STRENGTHEN RPS' GRANT MENTORING SKILLS (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.3.)

##### 5.2.1.3.1. ADMINISTER INCREASED NUMBER OF GRANTS TO RPS FOR CSOs (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.3.1.)

*Fifty-one (51) grants were completed by CSOs during the quarter, with regular mentoring and monitoring throughout the process. Thirty-four (34) CSOs implemented election or Constitution-related grants, and twenty-two (22) implemented Ebola related grants.*

The RPs met some serious grant mentoring challenges during the quarter as election dates kept changing, and their focus seesawed between the election and Ebola. This was further complicated by travel constraints caused by Ebola, forcing them to do most grant mentoring by email and phone. They mentored all CSOs on grant possibilities for the Special Senatorial Election, Constitution Review, and Ebola-related work. Then with assistance from the CS Team, they coached the interested partners through preparation of narrative proposals, budgets and timelines and implementation of the projects. By the end of the quarter, 34 CSOs were successful in their applications and implemented 31 grant projects (some working jointly) related to the election or Constitution Review, while 22 of them also implemented 20 Ebola-related grants. The total number of grant projects implemented was 51.

#### 5.2.1.4. ENHANCE RPS' FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.4.)

##### 5.2.1.4.1. BUILD ON SKILLS ACQUIRED DURING PROPOSAL WRITING TRAINING THROUGH MENTORING (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.4.1.)

*Three (3) of the four RPs successfully applied for grant funds to implement the Ebola-CAP Program of Mercy Corps because of CSML capacity building and encouragement; they brought in five (5) CSML partner CSOs as sub-grantees.*

Upon release of the Mercy Corps RFA for the "Ebola Community Action Platform," the IREX CoP and CS Specialist met with Mercy Corps to understand the project and how CSML could play a role to involve its partners. As a result, the CS Team talked to each RP to suggest that they apply and involve some of their CSO mentee partners. Three of the RPs applied, and all won. In every case they included some of their CSO mentee partners as subgrantees, totaling five more CSOs. All three RPs have credited CSML directly for the capacity building and encouragement that brought them that success. The competition for the \$500,000-1,000,000 category included international CSOs as well as Liberian.

Executive Director of the YMCA, one of CSML's RPs that received funding under the E-CAP program, shared with us the following in regards to the impact of their partnership with IREX on this success: "It is exemplary the style and commitment to capacity building and skills transfer. We can't be thankful enough for our partnership with IREX under the CSML program. As a Resource Partner, the capacity gains are measurable and the results are telling in term of the YMCA's growing capacity to independently write and win additional new grants like the Track A award under the USAID/Mercy Corps E-CAP; and the increasing level of grants and institutional development supports from our traditional overseas partners. We are defining partnership together in the real sense of capacity building and mutual relationship with benefits to our targeted beneficiaries and communities."

In addition, due at least indirectly to CSML capacity building assistance, six additional CSOs in the CSML network were selected, some as prime grantees and others as subgrantees.

#### 5.2.1.5. EXIT STRATEGY FOR RPS (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.5.)

##### 5.2.1.5.1. ESTABLISH AND CONVENE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE POLICY ON CERTIFICATES FOR RP ORGANIZATIONS/MTs AND MENTORS AT END OF PROGRAM CONFERENCE (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.5.1.)

The certification process was put on the agenda for the January Mentoring Meeting for finalization. The discussion was started at the July Regional Partners meeting but put on hold during the Ebola outbreak.

##### 5.2.1.5.2. STAKEHOLDERS' MEETINGS TO DISCUSS SETTING UP TRAINING INSTITUTE (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.5.2.)

The topic of a training institute, which was proposed at a partners' meeting at the end of Year Four, was also put on the agenda for the January Mentoring Meeting.

##### 5.2.1.5.3. EDIT AND PRINT TRAINING MATERIALS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIALS (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.5.3.)

The set of materials for the CSO Toolkit was completed in December for printing and distribution to the RPs at the January Mentoring Meeting. It is in four sections—Planning Documents, Financial Management and Sample Forms, Human Resources Policies and Sample Forms, and Management of Advanced CSOs. They will be considered ready for distribution to CSOs after the Mentoring Meeting at which MTs and Mentors, many of whom contributed to the documents over the years, will provide any final feedback.

##### 5.2.1.5.4. ADMINISTER YEAR 5 PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENTS & DISCUSS (WORKPLAN 1.2.1.5.4.)

The CS Sr. Program Officer and the M&E Team have developed a draft schedule for the RPs' Year Five assessments to occur in February.

#### 5.2.2. ENHANCE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.)

##### 5.2.2.1. ENHANCE MENTORING PROVIDED TO CSOS BY RPS (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.1.)

*One CSO won a grant from Arcelor Mittal for Ebola awareness with assistance from its mentoring partner.*

*Lofa County Network of Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LOFANET) is operating a center for Ebola orphans after training and mentoring in advocacy and proposal writing.*

The RPs and RSC continued to provide phone and email mentoring and monitoring to CSOs during the months of October and November. In Monrovia and several of the county capitals, face-to-face office visits were also made, and by the end of the quarter, with the number of Ebola cases reducing and the risks of transmission lowered, they had all re-established one-on-one mentoring with their mentee organizations in their offices.

While most mentoring was focused on grant proposals and implementation, other achievements have also been made, such as the following:

- Lofa County Network of Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LOFANET) opened the LofaNet Safe Home to provide accommodations, feeding, psychosocial counseling, literacy and clothing for 30 children who lost both parents from Ebola. With mentoring support and training in advocacy and proposal writing, LofaNet raised funds and in-kind support in the form of sanitation materials and food from a mobile clinic, a church, and the World Food Programme. Their future plans are to reintegrate the children into their communities through foster parents and to provide regular support and visits to the foster homes.
- The Liberia Christian Handicapped Organization (LICH0) engaged the Foya community with a weekly program on Radio Tamba Taikor by its Advocacy Officer on the rights of people with disabilities.

5.2.2.1.1. PROVIDE INTENSIVE MENTORING TO SET UP FILES AND FINALIZE POLICIES (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.1.1.)

As the RPs re-established one-on-one mentoring they returned to work they had begun on CSOs' filing systems and internal office policies.

- Seven of eight CSOs served by the Regional Support Center (RSC) have issued contracts for all employees and volunteers, with job descriptions attached. They are Bong Youth Association, Botanical Product Association of Liberia, Center for Justice and Peace Studies, Community Development and Research Agency, EARS for the Masses, Inter-visionary Artists, and Liberia Motorcycle Transport Union.
- WONGOSOL Mentors helped Bassa Women Development Association (BAWODA) in reviewing and revising its staff Terms of Reference (TOR).
- LofaNet is in the process of sorting through documents that have been on file in the last five years to better organize and secure them for future use.
- Zorzor Women in Action for Assistance and Development (ZOWAAD) has appointed a gender focus person who will be responsible to handle all gender related issues at the CSO.

5.2.2.1.2. PROVIDE MENTORING ON PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS IMPLEMENTATION (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.1.2.)

*Thirty-five (35) CSOs received close mentoring on grant proposals and implementation of fifty-three (53) projects.*

With the postponement of the October Special Senatorial Elections, the RPs began discussing with CSOs how they could revise and cut down their election grants to accommodate a shortened campaign period and avoid large gatherings. They reviewed proposals and gave feedback to the CSOs for corrections before sending their final copies to the CS Team. In cases where election FOGS had already been signed earlier in the year, the RPs modified them, once again with approval from the CS Team.

In addition, the CSML Ebola Response Plan launched in the prior quarter gained momentum, and RPs found themselves reviewing grant proposals for Ebola activities as well as election activities. In all the CS team reviewed and approved 51 proposals and the accompanying FOGs, which were signed between the RPs and the CSOs.

The RPs believe their CSOs are making progress in their proposal writing. Two examples follow:

- The WONGOSOL team worked alongside the Bassa Youth Caucus (BYC) in the development of its Ebola awareness strategy that was sponsored by the steel company Arcelor Mittal Liberia and in the preparation of its donor report, with emphasis on capturing major achievements and submitting the report on time.
- NARDA reported that, "Considerable amount of time was put into supporting We Care in developing the Ebola grant proposal. It was rewarding to see that less time was spent on the Election proposal. The skills of the personnel working on these grants had improved due to NARDA's mentoring."

5.2.2.1.3. HOLD MENTORING MEETINGS FOR MTs AND MENTORS (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.1.6.)

The CS Team held planning meetings to develop topics for the January Mentoring Meeting. The agenda includes organizational participatory assessments for both RPs and CSOs, finalizing the CSO Toolkit of office policies and forms, finalizing the summary of key advocacy concepts to be distributed to CSOs for review in the coming quarter, certification criteria for CSOs and RPs who have attended CSML training, and discussion of MTs' and Mentors' interest in developing their capacity to provide consulting services. All Mentors and Master Trainers are expected to attend the meeting scheduled for January 6-7, 2015.

5.2.2.2. EXIT STRATEGY FOR CSOS (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.2.)

5.2.2.2.1. ESTABLISH AND CONVENE MT/MENTORS COMMITTEE TO DECIDE POLICY ON CERTIFICATES FOR CSOS AND/OR INDIVIDUALS AT END OF PROGRAM CONFERENCE (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.2.1.)

As discussed in section 5.2.1.5.1., the certification process is to be finalized at the January Mentoring Meeting.

5.2.2.2.2. DEVELOP AND UTILIZE CHECKLIST OF ALL DOCUMENTS CSOs SHOULD HAVE IN THEIR OFFICES (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.2.2.)

The CS Team edited and put together the last pieces of the CSO Toolkit of policies and templates for CSOs in order to finalize them at the January Mentoring Meeting.

5.2.2.2.3. ADMINISTER YEAR FIVE PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENTS & DISCUSS FINAL RESULTS WITH EACH CSO (WORKPLAN 1.2.2.2.3.)

As mentioned above, the subject of Year Five participatory assessments scheduled for January and February was placed on the agenda of the January Mentoring Meeting.

5.2.3. PROMOTE RECONCILIATION AMONG CITIZENS THROUGH CSO LED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.2.3.)

As discussed in section 5.11.1.2., 60 Community Leaders' Forums were held in 13 counties to assist leaders to maintain harmony and non-violence during the Ebola crisis. In particular, the two-day forum carried out by SWAA in West Point was a strong example of the reconciliation activities that Liberian CSOs can carry out (see section 5.11.2.2.).

5.2.3.1. PROVIDE GRANTS PROMOTING HARMONY AND NON-VIOLENCE AROUND ELECTION (WORKPLAN 1.2.3.1.)

In early December the date of the Special Senatorial Election was put in question by a stay order from the Supreme Court. When it was announced on December 14 that it would take place on December 20, the CSML network had to accept that many of the themes of their grant activities, such as education on how to select a candidate, promoting consideration of women candidates, and holding of candidates' debates, could not be done reasonably. At an emergency meeting of the CS Team and RPs on December 15, it was agreed that the short time for election activities and the less than peaceful nature of some political parties' campaigns argued for a refocus toward non-violence for all CSO activities. Most of the CSOs have done non-violence promotion before, and many were already using it as their theme this time. Thirty-four CSOs carried out 31 sets of activities promoting non-violent elections in the seven counties (see section 5.9.3.1. for further details).

5.3. OBJECTIVE TWO: (WORKPLAN 1.3.)

5.3.1. PROMOTE ADVOCACY AND ADDRESS CORRUPTION THROUGH CSO LED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.3.1.)

*A CSML small grant supported a Budget Forum in Monrovia where Liberian economists and civil society representatives identified problems with the budgeting process.*

A special grant was awarded to Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD) to organize a Budget Forum to raise public attention to allocations in the 2014/2015 national budget (just passed) that are inappropriate in the context of the Ebola crisis and call on the national legislature to exercise sensitivity in the wake of growing hardship. The Forum invited presentations by economists, the Ministry of Finance, and a CSO representative and provided time for healthy discussion. Participants included representatives of the UN, civil society, academia, and the media.

Input from the Forum went into a communiqué sent to the President Pro-Temporare of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Liberian President requesting among things that the budget process be more consultative and that the budget reflect national priorities (Attachment 2). The Deputy Speaker of the House

responded by telephone and expressed his interest in hearing from civil society about budget allocations for the District Development Fund.

IREX plans to work with partner(s) to expand its work on the budget through a number of our community outreach forums such as the citizen-government roundtable, “I Know My Rights,” etc.

5.3.1.1. PROVIDE GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF CIVIC EDUCATION—ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS—AND MENTOR CSOS IN GRANT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION (WORKPLAN 1.3.1.1.)

Section 5.2.1.3.1. discusses the mentoring of 34 CSOs to design and implement 31 grant projects on the election or the Constitutional Review process.

5.3.1.2. PROVIDE MENTORING TO REVIEW KEY ADVOCACY CONCEPTS LEARNED (WORKPLAN 1.3.1.2.)

The CS Team completed its work of drawing the key concepts out of the advocacy training materials to provide them to CSOs for review during mentoring and to have for easy reference. They will be discussed and finalized at the January Mentoring Meeting.

5.4. OBJECTIVE THREE: (WORKPLAN 1.4.)

5.4.1. IMPROVE CITIZENS’ DIALOGUE WITH THEIR LEADERS THROUGH CSO LED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.)

5.4.1.1. PROVIDE GRANTS TO PROMOTE CSOS’ INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL REFORM PROCESSES SUCH AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS THROUGH MENTORING AND GRANT ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.1.)

*Two(2) CSOs worked with two hundred and eighteen (218) citizens to explain the Constitution; one (1) specifically gathered input for the CRC from ninety eight (98) citizens.*

As reported in the last quarter, the CSOs that had begun planning for activities to involve citizens in the Constitutional Review process had to halt their work because of the Ebola crisis. As activities resumed late in the year, two of them completed their activities in December, as follows:

- BCCM held three public meetings of approximately 40 participants each in Buchanan, one targeting youth and first-time voters, one targeting women, and the third one for a general audience.
- Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA) held focus group discussions to gather and compile 98 (64 males, 34 females, 36 youths) citizens’ views on the Constitution in four communities in Kokoyah Statutory District, Bong County.

Four CSOs that had chosen to work on the CRC process re-directed their work toward the election or Ebola. At the end of the year, CSML learned that the CRC would not be collecting further input from citizens on the Constitution, so no further grants will be provided for this purpose.

5.4.1.2. PROMOTE USE OF SMS INITIATIVE AS A TOOL TO ENGAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.2.)

Section 5.2.1.2. discusses the SMS refresher workshop for RP trainers and Mentors, where examples were given of how SMS poll results have been used to bring local government officials into discussion about the need for change, and participants had the opportunity to design other possible uses.



#### 5.4.1.3. EXIT STRATEGY (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.3.)

##### 5.4.1.3.1. DETERMINE WAY FORWARD ON PRODUCTION OF “VOICES OF THE PEOPLE” (WORKPLAN 1.4.1.3.1.)

The CS and Media Teams reviewed options for a production called “Voices of the People” to showcase CSML-sponsored roundtables between civil society and local government. They decided that there would not be enough interest in a print version to justify the effort, but that there might be enough interest among citizens for a CD. They then met with a media consultant to evaluate whether the CDs collected from the roundtables are of adequate quality for extracting and editing into a CD. The recommendation was that they were not; some were very incomplete, and all were of poor quality. It was therefore decided that the effort was not justifiable and will be discontinued.

#### 5.4.2. TCC SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL TRADITIONAL COUNCIL (WORKPLAN 1.4.2.)

##### 5.4.2.1. CONDUCT CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS (WORKPLAN 1.4.2.1.)

*Over one-hundred and fifty (150) individuals participated in a TCC supported national chiefs’ consultative meeting to discuss Ebola in Gbarnga, Bong County.*

The Carter Center’s (TCC) Access to Justice (ATJ) Project continued its capacity building support to the National Council of Chiefs of Liberia (NCCEL), with a focus on Ebola transmission and prevention awareness-raising in support of the Government’s efforts to combat the disease.

From October 1-4, the Carter Center supported a national chiefs’ consultative meeting on Ebola In October at the request of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia through the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Morris M. Dukuly in Gbarnga city Bong County.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn from government and its partners on the strides made in the fight against Ebola, share local initiatives by chiefs and others since the outbreak, and recommend practical collaborative actions between chiefs, government and its partners in curbing the deadly disease.

The meeting was opened by the Honorable Minister of Internal Affairs Morris M. Dukuly who in his statement thanked the Council of Chiefs and the Carter Center for organizing the unique program that brought together participants from 13 of the 15 sub political divisions of Liberia. He further indicated that the cost of fighting Ebola is very high but challenged the chiefs to make use of their institution to raise awareness as theirs is very powerful in terms of outreach and respect. The opening ceremony was chaired by Chief Zanzan Karwor, Chairman of the Chief Council.

The substantive part of the meeting constituted several presentations on the state of Ebola including access and utilization of services, social mobilization, and importance of collaboration in fighting Ebola and best practices across the country. Speakers included health service providers, policy makers, legislators and international (WHO, CDC, UNICEF, UNFPA) national partners and traditional leaders (MOHSW, MIA, Crusader for Peace, MOA) in the fight. Over 150 participants drawn from the Ministry of internal affairs and its Auxiliaries, other Ministries, INGOs, and civil society organizations, media and individuals attended the meeting and contributed to the discussions.

The consultative meeting closed with chiefs passing on a resolution which call for the allocation of land for burial in Montserrado County to avoid the cremation of Ebola bodies, provide support for traditional authorities to engage in awareness and contact tracing, and encourage traditional leaders representation on the different taskforce in the fight against the virus.

After the national consultative meeting and an adoption of its resolutions, the Carter Center on November 18<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with the National Council of Chiefs and Elders, and Ministries of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) and Internal Affairs (MIA) began a ten-week training program which will be held in 88 health districts across the country and include more than 4,000 chiefs and elders and 10,000 general community health workers. The training will prepare participants to provide Ebola education in their communities and to support contact tracing, active case finding, surveillance, safe burial, and safe transportation in order to break the transmission.

The four-day training which will be conducted by MOHSW officials in collaboration with county and district health teams and international partners will be held at the district level simultaneously in nine priority counties to include Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi, still considered to be “hot spot” communities.

Following the training, the community health volunteers will conduct a door-to-door campaign throughout their communities to conduct civic education and to support Ebola response. They will do this with the support of the village, township, and clan chiefs, who also will help to educate their communities and share information with health workers at the community, district, and county levels.

## 5.5. OBJECTIVE FOUR: (WORKPLAN 1.5.)

### 5.5.1. ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF MEDIA MAIN PARTNERS (MMP) (WORKPLAN 1.5.1.)

#### 5.5.1.1. HOLD MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH EACH MMP (WORKPLAN 1.5.1.1.)

The Ebola crisis coupled with the postponement and subsequent Supreme Court “stay order” on the Special Senatorial Election (see section 5.9.) posed some major challenges for implementing activities during the quarter. The Media Team held 12 meetings with the Media Main Partners (MMPs), LMC and LIWOMAC among other partners to discuss strategies and develop alternative plans to ensure that activities were implemented in accordance with adjusted timetables. This included completing grant modifications with both MMPs for their Year Five and election grants.

In early December, the meeting focused on ways to improve partners’ monthly and quarterly reports. These partners included LMC, LIWOMAC, PUL and the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP). This was due to concerns that media partners were not adequately capturing success stories in their reports and were consistently missing deadlines for submitting reports.

### 5.5.2. SPECIALIZED CONSULTING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.)

#### 5.5.2.1. ENHANCE MENTORING OF SCBDI PARTNERS TO IMPROVE EDITORIAL CONTENT AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.)

##### 5.5.2.1.1. HOLD MORE REPORTING TRIPS (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.2.)

*Ten (10) reporters (7 males and 3 females) participated in a one-day training on how to stay safe while reporting on the Ebola crisis.*

*Eleven (11) reporters (8 males and 3 females) participated in five reporting trips to improve their reporting on the Ebola crisis*

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas Ebert, a member of the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) facilitated a one-day training for ten SCBDI reporters on how to stay safe while covering the Ebola crisis at Corina Hotel in Monrovia. Ebert told the reporters that no story is worth dying for and that they must learn the basic facts about the virus and know how to protect themselves while reporting in Ebola-affected areas and while interviewing people stricken by the virus. The Senior Media Specialist also developed a list of Ebola Safety Tips that were shared with the reporters (see Attachment 3).

During the session, some reporters shared their experience covering Ebola. One reporter said he broke down in tears when he saw Ebola patients struggling to breathe at an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) while another suffered from nightmares after videotaping dead bodies as they were transported for cremation.

The SCBDI reporters then participated in five reporting trips throughout the quarter focused on the Ebola crisis:

- On October 8th, a team of reporters went to the Samuel K. Doe Stadium to follow-up on the construction of an Ebola Logistics Hub. Reporters from SKY-FM, LWDR, LUX-FM, the News and Women Voices newspapers published stories on the facility which was being built to store items donated for the fight against Ebola.
- The reporters also traveled to Congo Town, a suburb in Monrovia, to report on the ETU that the U.S. Military was constructing. The reporters also reported on the new Ebola testing machines that arrived in the country in early October and were distributed to ETUs at Island Clinic, John F. Kennedy Hospital, Bong County and the Liberian Institute for Bio Medical Research Center in Margibi County.
- On October 13<sup>th</sup>, a team of reporters traveled to Bomi County to cover the reopening of Radio Bomi. The station went off the air in August after it was gutted by fire. USAID approved IREX's request to provide a 500-watt transmitter and studio equipment to the station to enable the station to cover the Ebola crisis in the country, one of the hardest-hit Ebola areas in the country. The reporters who participated in the coverage include LWDR, United Methodist Radio, LUX-FM, SKY-FM and Public Agenda, Daily Observer, Women Voices, and the News newspapers (see section 5.6.2. for more details).
- On December 8th, 10 reporters (7 males and 3 females) teamed up to cover the national "Ebola Must Go" campaign launched by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in New Georgia, a suburb of Monrovia credited for mobilizing residents to reduce Ebola cases in their community. The community took care of Ebola orphans, embraced Ebola survivors, reported the sick and provided food and water for quarantined families. President Sirleaf urged all Liberians to take the pledge of no new Ebola cases by December 31st, 2014. Media outlets who participated in the reporting trip included SKY-FM/TV, Public Agenda, LUKE's FM, Informer, Women Voices, Daily Observer, ELUM and LWDR and the stories ran between December 8th and 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5.5.2.1.2. INCREASE INVOLVEMENT WITH MEDIA MANAGERS (WORKPLAN 1.5.2.1.3.)

*PUL, YMCA, and CEMESP mediate to end conflict between Super Bongese and Radio Gbarnga.*

*Sixty-three (63) media managers (54 males and 9 females) participated in a forum organized by CEMESP with support from PUL, UNICEF, IREX, and MICAT to promote the media's role in stopping Ebola.*

*Sixty-three (63) editors and senior reporters (56 males and 7 females) participated in regional trainings led by IREX, UNICEF, and MICAT in Monrovia and Gbarnga to strengthen their reporting on the Ebola-crisis.*

In October, Broadcast consultant Raymond Zarbay visited seven media outlets to meet with media managers to discuss the impact of CSML mentoring on their outlets and reporters. Zarbay visited SKY-FM, United Methodist Radio, LUX-FM, Public Agenda, Daily Observer, The News, and Women Voices newspapers. Overwhelmingly, media managers said reporters were making significant strides due to the mentoring, especially on Ebola coverage. All the editors asked that the mentoring be continued.

In November, IREX partnered with UNICEF and the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) to organize a series of forums to engage Media Managers in a discussion on how to eradicate Ebola by developing partnerships with international organizations and the government to broaden the coverage on the deadly disease by focusing on accurate, balanced, and conflict-sensitive reporting. CSML's partner, CEMESP, organized the forums in partnership with the PUL and MICAT.

The forums kicked off on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Corina Hotel in Monrovia with 63 Media Managers attending the event. Participants included Monrovia-based media outlets and community radio station managers from Cape Mount, Margibi, and Gparbolu counties. During the event, Minister Lewis Brown told the attendees that the government was committed to a free press because the government needs the press to help eradicate Ebola. Dr. Peter Graaf, UNMEER's Ebola Crisis Manager provided an overview of the Ebola crisis in Liberia, the challenges, and stressed the need for the media to remain an integral part of the fight against Ebola. Speaking on behalf of UNICEF, Rukshan Ratnam, Communications Specialist, told the journalists that UNICEF wanted to partner with the media to tell the Ebola story. He told the managers that he receives numerous phone calls from international media for stories, but does not receive requests from the Liberian media. He hoped that the engagement would signal the start of a working relationship with the Liberian media.

Rodney Sieh, Managing Editor of FrontPage Africa, said the Liberian media struggled to report on the crisis due to the loss in advertising dollars and lack of protective gear. He said Monrovia-based media outlets had to compromise their ethics by accepting fuel from the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company to maintain their generators to print and broadcast. For example, the Liberian Broadcasting System (LBS) was off the air for a short period during the crisis because of the lack of fuel. During the crisis, media outlets did not generate any advertisements, a major source of income for them. Other managers echoed Sieh's sentiments. While the international community focused on providing equipment and supplies to fight Ebola, the managers asked that the media be included in the relief effort because they are on the frontlines of informing the public about the disease.

Minister Lewis Brown also promised that the Ministry would begin viewing the millions of dollars in advertising bills that the government owed the media houses, dating back two years. IREX's Chief of Party (CoP) told the managers that he heard their concerns and IREX will see how it can support them during the crisis. The Senior Media Specialist also gave the managers tips on how to pursue investigative reporting on the Ebola crisis. She informed the managers to apply for Investigative reporting grants to cover the Ebola crisis.

Thirty-five participants from Community Radio Stations (CRSs) attended the second I forum on November 26th in Gbarnga, Bong county CEMESP's Executive Director Malcolm Joseph coordinated the forum with representatives from UNICEF, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), PUL president Abdullai Kamara and Isaac Jackson, Deputy Minister for MICAT. The forum was similar to the Monrovia one, however it differed slightly because the CDC representative focused on the Ebola crisis in Gbarnga and other counties and the international community's response.

During the period under review CEMESP, YMCA, and the PUL mitigated a conflict between Super Bongese and Radio Gbarnga in Bong County. The stations are well known for using their outlets to taunt each other, which undermined their own credibility and fueled tensions in the community. Additionally, Radio Gbarnga's Station Manager is President of the Association of Liberia Community Radios (ALICOR) and ALICOR had consistently failed to invite Super Bongese to professional development opportunities funded by international donors. The two stations also allowed political leaders to heighten the tensions because they aligned themselves with opposing leaders.

The YMCA's Executive Director made the first intervention in late November. In early December, the PUL and CEMESP organized a two-day mediation effort between the two parties at DEN-L in Gbarnga. The mediation talks were attended by Bishop Anthony Borwah of the Catholic Diocese in Gbarnga, community leaders, and journalists.

At the end of the two-day meeting, the representatives of the stations adopted a memorandum of understanding, pledging to work professionally in order to provide news and information to their community. They also agreed to avoid airing their differences in public and agreed to publicly apologize to the community for their actions, renewed their commitment to professional standards and ethics of journalism, and promised to restore community confidence in community radio.

### 5.5.3. WOMEN'S MEDIA INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.)

#### 5.5.3.1. ENSURE IMPROVED WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN IN THE MEDIA (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.)

##### 5.5.3.1.1. FINALIZE GENDER POLICY (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.1.)

##### 5.5.3.1.1.1. VALIDATE AND DEVELOP ACTION PLAN FOR GENDER POLICY (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.1.1.1.)

In December, LIWOMAC submitted plans to implement the Gender Policy for media outlets in collaboration with the PUL. The Media team is reviewing the plan and will meet with media stakeholders including the Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FEJAL) in January to discuss the plan and begin preparing for implementation. Work on the policy was suspended during much of the quarter due to the Ebola crisis.

#### 5.5.3.2. INCREASE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN NEWSROOMS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.)

##### 5.5.3.2.1. ENHANCE MENTORING FOR WMI SCHOLARS AND FEMALE JOURNALISTS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.1.)

The LWDR training studio was busy during the quarter. In October, four of the nine mentees received training in basic journalism, news writing, script writing, and program production. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, LWDR aired the mentees' stories on forestry, Ebola, and human rights.

Three of the mentees who came into the program without any computer skills learned how to use Microsoft Word, set up email, and other operational aspects of the computer. One mentee created a proposal to begin a "Community Women Talk Peace" radio program aimed at promoting UN Resolution 1325 which advances women's rights.

During the reporting period, LWDR staff also discussed plans to resume training for High School to Journalism students. Before the Ebola crisis, the students participated in program production training at the studio, but the activity was halted because of the virus. LIWOMAC planned to resume the program in November in order to give young people a platform to talk about how the Ebola crisis has affected them (see section 5.5.4.).

In November, the WMI mentees and scholars reported on a range of stories that increased productivity and diversified the news coverage at LWDR, totaling 36 stories throughout the month. One of the most prolific mentees included Angela Suah who produced stories about the women on Peace Island who called on the government to address domestic violence, an international organization that donated items to the Diamond Creek Ebola Task Force, and the Gender Ministry developing regulations on child adoption.

Mentee Dioda Wreh produced stories that focused on the Special Senatorial Election, Ebola statistics, Liberian musicians banding together to produce the Ebola-themed "Hope Song," and residents of one community complaining about pollution and poor sanitary conditions. Mentee Jerrydene Stubblefield produced stories featuring citizens commending the government for lifting the State of Emergency, voter apathy, armed robbery in a suburban community, and a Methodist Church's donations to Ebola survivors.

In December, WMI mentees at LWDR produced 12 stories. The mentees' reports included stories on the Special Senatorial Election and the Ebola crisis.

5.5.3.2.1.1. WORK WITH RURAL MENTEES TO IMPROVE ELECTION AND EBOLA-RELATED REPORTING (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.2.1.2.)

In December, LIWOMAC submitted a plan to mentor rural mentees via telephone. The organization planned to engage the young women in covering Ebola and other issues affecting women in their community. Under the plan, a team comprising LIWOMAC's training supervisor and CRS managers will identify talented mentees with potential to serve as correspondents for LWDR and other Monrovia-based media outlets. The goal is to showcase the work of CRS female reporters and increase their opportunities for career advancement.

5.5.3.3. ENHANCE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.3.)

5.5.3.3.1. PROMOTE INFORMATION SHARING AMONG WOMEN'S LISTENING CLUBS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.3.1.)

5.5.3.3.1.1. LINK CLUBS TO EBOLA AND ELECTION ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.3.1.1.)

In December, LIWOMAC held discussions with Eddie Jarwolo, Executive Director of National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NAYMOTE), to discuss how to connect the Women's Listening Clubs to NAYMOTE's voter and civic education outreach activities. LIWOMAC gave Jarwolo the club's directory so he could contact members during outreach activities. The Girls Media Frontier (GMF) participants were also encouraged to connect with NAYMOTE and its activities leading up to the election (see section 5.9.4.2.).

5.5.3.4. ENHANCE "I KNOW MY RIGHTS" COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS (WORKPLAN 1.5.4.4.)

*Forty-eight (48) community members (3 males and 45 females) attended "I Know My Rights Forums" in two communities focused on violence against women, abandonment, and community sanitation.*

In December, LIWOMAC held two "I know my Rights" forums under the theme: "Community Women Talk Peace and Security." The forums were held in the communities of Harmon Field and Peace Island.

Twenty-six people (1 male and 25 females) attended the Peace Island forum. Participants voiced concerns about violence against women and how women and girls are abandoned by their husbands and fathers. At the end of the meeting, participants created a task force to end violence and abandonment in the community. LIWOMAC staff worked with the women to produce messages to support these efforts.

Twenty-two people (two males and 20 females) attended the Harmon Field community forum where they discussed the lack of public water and latrines. Community members shared that the lack of these basic amenities was causing tensions as people are often fighting over the handful of public wells in the community and the use of nearby bushes as toilets. In order to address the tensions, the community decided to conduct conflict resolution training and workshops for block leaders to empower them to handle community disputes. The community agreed to impose fines on individuals who refuse to take their complaints to the block leaders.

5.5.4. HIGH SCHOOL TO JOURNALISM INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.5.)

The High School to Journalism Program was suspended during the height of the Ebola crisis as a result of the closing of schools and the ban on social gatherings. Before the suspension, some students had begun training and mentoring at the LWDR studio.



In November, LWDR staff discussed plans to resume the training for the high school students in order to give young people a platform to talk about the Ebola crisis and its impact on them. Estella Nelson, LIWOMAC's president, said the youth voice has been absent on the crisis. LIWOMAC plans to begin working with the students in January.

#### 5.5.5. INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.5.6.)

The Investigative Journalism (IJ) grant for Christiana Garpeh was closed out in December after her reports were completed and submitted to IREX's Finance and Grants department. Garpeh's report on child rape was broadcast on LWDR in December.

##### 5.5.5.1. AWARD MORE IJ GRANTS TO SCBDI PARTNERS AND CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.5.6.1.)

In December, IREX asked CEMESP to promote the IJ grants to media managers so they can encourage their reporters to apply. The effort is part of the media engagement program that CEMESP is implementing in collaboration with the PUL, UNICEF, and MICAT in response to the Ebola crisis (see section 5.5.2.1.2.).

#### 5.5.6. ON-LINE MEDIA RESOURCES CLEARINGHOUSE (WORKPLAN 1.5.7.)

##### 5.5.6.1. PROMOTE AWARENESS OF OMRCH (WORKPLAN 1.5.7.1.)

During the quarter, the PUL website and other social media tools remained active. Some key features included announcements and press releases about PUL activities, especially on the Special Senatorial Election.

Here are links to some of the major highlights featured on the website:

- **Press Union of Liberia Begins Debates for Senatorial Candidate:**  
[http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record\\_id=331&sub=89&mi=1](http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=331&sub=89&mi=1)
- **PUL Seeks Peaceful and Just Resolution to Radio Gbezohn Conflict:**  
[http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record\\_id=333&sub=89&mi=1](http://pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=333&sub=89&mi=1).
- **PUL Resumes Nationwide Senatorial Debates:**  
[http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record\\_id=334&sub=89&mi=1](http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=334&sub=89&mi=1)
- **PUL Trains Monitors for Media Monitoring:** [http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record\\_id=332&sub=89&mi=1](http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=332&sub=89&mi=1)
- **PUL, UNESCO Host Forum to Commemorate Journalists Safety:**  
[http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record\\_id=332&sub=89&mi=1](http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=332&sub=89&mi=1)
- **PUL Visits Ailing Journalists:** [http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record\\_id=335&sub=89&mi=1](http://www.pul.org.lr/story.php?record_id=335&sub=89&mi=1)

In November, the website registered 2,075 visitors and 17,332 hits. For two weeks in December, the Online Media Resources Clearinghouse site was shut down for maintenance. The site resumed operations in the third week of the month. In those two weeks alone, the site received 786 visitors and 7,002 hits.

The PUL social media pages also remained active during the quarter. At the end of November, the Facebook Account had 687 Friends, while the Facebook Page showed 2,832 Likes. At the end of December, the Facebook page recorded 3,338 Likes and 751 friends. The media has been very useful in sharing information and debates on PUL and media development issues, as well as issues involving members.

#### 5.6. OBJECTIVE FIVE: (WORKPLAN 1.6.)

##### 5.6.1. ENHANCE CONTENT OF PARTNER CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.6.1.)

##### 5.6.1.1. LIWOMAC AND LMC PROVIDE ONGOING MENTORSHIP ON SPECIAL SENATORIAL ELECTION (WORKPLAN 1.6.1.1.)

*Thirty (30) CRS journalists (18 males and 12 females) in Nimba participate in mentoring in October.*

In December, the LMC resumed mentoring at five Community Radio Stations in Nimba, providing mentorship directly to 30 CRS staff. Participating stations included Radio Kergheamahn, Ganta; Voice of Tappita, Tappita City; Radio Saclepea, Saclepea; Radio Karn, Karnplay; and Radio Sehnwai, Sanniquillie. The mentoring focused on Ebola coverage, health, security human rights, and agriculture.

Attrition remains a major problem for CRSs. Many of the participants at the October mentoring sessions were new to the stations and journalism therefore compelling the trainers to provide training in basic journalism and news gathering to bring reporters up to speed.

Mentoring and training was halted in December to allow LMC staff to focus on the Special Senatorial Election. With less than two weeks to implement election activities following the lifting of the “stay order” human and other resources had to be directed towards implementing the ERC project.

LIWOMAC continued to support its mentees throughout the quarter via telephone as they covered election and Ebola-related stories.

#### 5.6.1.2. PROVIDE CRSS WITH SMALL GRANTS TO PRODUCE EBOLA MESSAGES IN LOCAL LANGUAGES (WORKPLAN 1.6.1.2.)

In December, LIWOMAC and CEMESP began working on producing new Ebola awareness messages as part of the national “Ebola Must Go” effort launched December 8<sup>th</sup> by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The two organizations submitted a budget and proposal and began drafting scripts that will be reviewed by the Media Team before production begins. The Media Team also approved the budget and proposal and submitted a concurrence to USAID for approval (see more details in section 5.11.2.4.).

#### 5.6.2. ENHANCE TECHNICAL SUSTAINABILITY OF CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.6.2.)

*Radio Bomi returns to the airwaves after receiving new radio equipment from IREX.*

In October, LMC technicians completed the installation of the 500-watt transmitter and studio equipment at Radio Bomi in Bomi County.

The station went off the air in August after it was gutted in a fire. USAID gave IREX approval to provide a transmitter and studio equipment to enable the station to continue reporting on the Ebola crisis. Bomi County was one of the hardest-hit Ebola counties. Local officials donated \$10,000 to renovate the station. With the new transmitter, Radio Bomi’s reach is expanded to parts of Bong County, Monrovia, Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu Counties.

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, about 75 people including local officials and community members attended the re-opening of the radio station. Many of the officials who spoke thanked IREX and USAID for restoring the station so that people can learn how to protect themselves and find out what is going on in their community with regards to Ebola.

Bomi County Superintendent Samuel Brown said Ebola infections increased in the county during the two months that the station was off the air. “Citizens did not have adequate information to prevent the spread of the disease,” he said. The re-opening ceremony was broadcast live. After the ceremony, IREX’s Senior Media Specialist and the LMC Officer-in-Charge discussed the CSML Ebola Response plan during a live radio show.

During the reporting period, the Regional Service Technician also responded to technical problems at the Voice of Rural Montserrado and Radio Life in Zorzor, Lofa County. At Voice of Rural Montserrado, the technician cleaned the transmitter which had been clogged with dust. He also stabilized the equipment to avoid an upsurge of current due to power fluctuation and formatted the station’s computer. At Radio Life, the technician repaired the station’s transmitting antennas to improve signal transmission.

#### 5.6.2.1. ESTABLISH EQUIPMENT RESOURCES POOL (WORKPLAN 1.6.2.1.)

In December, the Media team completed the procurement process to purchase spare parts and other accessories for the Equipment Resources Pool (ERP). The Senior Media Specialist worked with the LMC technician to finalize the equipment list before forwarding the documents to IREX Headquarters for purchase from DB Electronica. The equipment is expected to arrive in country in January.

#### 5.6.2.2. ENHANCE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF ALICOR (WORKPLAN 1.6.2.3.)

##### 5.6.2.2.1. WORK WITH ALICOR TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR EBOLA-RELATED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.6.2.3.1.)

In December, ALICOR continued to scout funding from international donors including submitting two proposals to UNICEF and Mercy Corps to support its work with community radio stations. The organization also submitted deliverables it had achieved as key milestones to CSML's Media Team. The organization continued to remain functional by having regular board and executive committee meetings, applying for grants through proposal processes, and engaging partners.

### 5.7. OBJECTIVE SIX: (WORKPLAN 1.8.)

#### 5.7.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE USE OF SMS SYSTEM (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.)

##### 5.7.1.1. PROVIDE ONGOING MENTORING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO RADIO HUBS (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.1.)

*Four (4) radio hubs created twenty-eight (28) opinion polls via the SMS platform and two thousand five hundred and ninety (2,590) individual votes were received.*

In October, the LMC and IREX's Senior Program Manager worked together to modify the SMS grant to reflect the new implementation timeline dictated by the NCE. One of the activities outlined in the modified grant include a Refresher Workshop for Hub Operators and RPs specifically on using the opinion poll in the time of Ebola which was held in late November (see section 5.7.1.2.1.).

Additionally, in December the LMC expanded the number of hubs with support from the IREX IT Officer by installing the SMS platform at LIWOMAC's LWDR studio. IREX provided a computer and software for the installation. Four LWDR staffers learned how to operate the system and create opinion polls. Two LWDR staffers attended the Refresher Workshop on developing questions to respond to Ebola (see section 5.7.1.2.1.) so as to prepare them to fully benefit from the installation that would soon follow.

The LMC and IREX IT Officer continued to provide support to the four hub operators throughout the quarter via telephone and email engagement. This support includes encouragement to create Ebola-related questions and to follow-up on responses with additional programming, engagement with government leaders and other stakeholders, etc.

The most popular opinion polls throughout the quarter focused on Ebola related issues. Below are some examples of questions posed to listeners via the four SMS hubs:

#### **Lofa County (Radio Kintoma):**

How can we prevent election violence?

Responses	No. of SMSs	Percentage
Polling staff must be more responsive to issue	44	25.4%
Dialogue amongst electoral stake	43	25%

holders		
Avoid use of bad language on candidates	40	23%
Follow all rules made by election commission	46	26.6%
Total	173	100%

#### **Grand Bassa (Magic FM):**

How can you as citizens of Bassa grade the performance of the Ebola task force in Bassa in relations to their fight against the virus thus far?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>No. of SMSs</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	3	9.7%
Good	10	32.3%
Fair	18	58.1%
Total	31	100%

#### **Nimba County (Radio Kergheanmahn):**

What should be done to persons found selling materials intended for the fight against Ebola?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>No. of SMSs</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
They should be arrested and prosecuted.	47	88.7%
The item should be retrieved and the person be left alone	6	11.3%
Total	53	100%

Throughout the quarter a total of 28 opinion polls were developed by the four hubs, and 2,590 individual votes were received.

#### **5.7.1.2. ENHANCE USAGE OF OPINION POLL COMPONENT FOR GAUGING CITIZENS' PRIORITIES AROUND EBOLA (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.2.)**

##### **5.7.1.2.1. HOLD REFRESHER TRAINING FOR HUB OPERATORS AND RPS ON OPINION POLL AND EBOLA ENGAGEMENT (WORKPLAN 1.8.1.2.1.)**

*Ten (10) SMS Platform Hub Operators and Station Managers (9 males and 1 female) and three (3) representatives of the RPs participated in a one-day refresher workshop to encourage usage of the opinion poll to gauge citizens on the Ebola crisis and Special Senatorial Election.*

Throughout the quarter, usage of the SMS platform has increased as Hub Operators are gauging listeners' priorities in response to the Ebola crisis. To further encourage this trend and provide a platform for the Hub Operators to share their experiences and motivate one another, IREX and the LMC hosted a Refresher Workshop for Hub Operators, Station Managers, and several RPS on November 25th at the LMC. The workshop encouraged experience sharing from the Operators, and several impressive success stories as to how the Operators used the results of a poll to engage local government and affect change were shared. Additionally, the group brainstormed new question ideas, and discussed how the SMS platform could be used in response to the Special Senatorial Election in December. The participants were encouraged to create questions that combined the election with Ebola, gauging listeners concerns and thoughts on the election in light of the ongoing crisis, what precautions they thought election authorities should take, etc.

The participation of the RPs at the Workshop was essential to further encourage coordination of the Hubs and civil society in developing and responding to opinion poll questions. The RPs provided valuable insight as to where and how their mentee organizations could support and broaden the impact of the results.

The LMC shared the sample questions developed during the workshop with all of the participants to encourage them to actively create new questions at their station.

## 5.7.2. INCREASE INTERACTION BETWEEN SMS HUBS AND CSOS (WORKPLAN 1.8.2.)

### 5.7.2.1. RPS INFUSE SMS IN THEIR MENTORING TO HELP CSOS IDENTIFY OPINION POLL QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS (WORKPLAN 1.8.2.1.)

Through their participation in the SMS Refresher Workshop (see section 5.7.1.2.1.) the RPs were challenged to engage their civil society mentees along with the community radio hubs to ensure that they work collaboratively to develop questions that address key concerns related to the election and the Ebola crisis. The RPs committed themselves to incorporating the tool into their mentoring so as to broaden its usage and impact.

## 5.7.3. ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SMS INITIATIVE (WORKPLAN 1.8.3.)

### 5.7.3.1. PROVIDE TRAINING TO LMC AND HUB OPERATORS IN FRONTLINE SMS (WORKPLAN 1.8.3.1.)

As part of the SMS grant modification referenced in section 5.7.1.1., the LMC and IREX have decided to shift the sustainability strategy for the platform. Rather than focus on ensuring the sustainability of the existing platform which is wrought with challenges, the modified grant provides for a training in Frontline SMS for all hub operators and LMC staff. Frontline SMS will enable to hub operators and LMC to independently develop surveys and conduct opinion polling without a server, internet, and other associated costs. This training will likely take place in early 2015, and the hubs will be mentored throughout the end of the program to ensure successful integration of the new technology for long term sustainability of the approach.

## 5.8. OBJECTIVE SEVEN: (WORKPLAN 1.9.)

### 5.8.1. SUPPORT DISSEMINATION OF EBOLA-RELATED INFORMATION (WORKPLAN 1.9.1.)

#### 5.8.1.1. ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S EBOLA COMMUNICATION STRATEGY (WORKPLAN 1.9.1.1.)

*TCC assisted MICAT with coordination and scheduling of fifty-two (52) Ebola-related press briefings that included over forty-eight (48) speakers from government ministries and agencies.*

TCC/ATI continued to support the building and implementation of the Government of Liberia's communication strategy that serves to guide authorities in proactively disclosing timely and accurate information related to Ebola prevention measures, as well as ensuring the information reaches the county-level. TCC/ATI support includes serving on the Secretariat of the Communication Committee and as a member of the messaging subcommittee. Through this work, TCC/ATI assists MICAT to develop and disseminate daily press briefings on government efforts and resources to fight the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). TCC/ATI helped to gather specific content from various government and international partners from diverse sectors and includes information related to the construction of Ebola Treatment Units, funding, materials, resource accountability, among others. Partners provide updates and feedback at the weekly committee meetings that are often organized by TCC/ATI staff. Over the quarter, TCC/ATI assisted in the coordination and scheduling of 52 briefings that included over 48 speakers from government ministries and agencies, including key members of the Incidence Management System; leaders of community task forces; and, local and international partners. Examples of speakers include the United States Ambassador, the U.S. Army, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Task Force Coordinator who coordinates EVD resources, the head of the traditional chiefs in Liberia, and many others.

As part of the messaging subcommittee, TCC/ATI provided technical assistance for the planning and implementation of the Government's 'Ebola Must GO' campaign to help Liberia achieve the initial target of a zero EVD-case level by the end of December 2014. Specific TCC/ATI support included determining the campaign's information/material

dissemination strategy within the capital city of Monrovia and at the county level, such as via radio, billboards, banners, flyers, and the engagement of local community groups like the County Freedom of Information Networks. The finalized plan was submitted by the Communication Committee to President Sirleaf through Information Minister Lewis Brown. Following approval of the plan, and with the support of TCC/ATI and others, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf launched the campaign in the Monrovia suburb of New Georgia Community in December, calling on people to back government efforts to rid the country of EVD by the year's end.

#### 5.8.1.2. SUPPORT CRSS TO DISSEMINATE GOVERNMENT EBOLA BRIEFINGS (WORKPLAN 1.9.1.2.)

As part of TCC/ATI support to the Government of Liberia in the dissemination of key EVD-related information and briefings, we assisted community radio stations in several counties to capture and share key excerpts from the daily Government Ebola briefings, as well as updates produced by the country's Incidence Management System. During the reporting period, a total of 51 news stories were captured from the MICAT briefings and shared with 13 community radio stations in Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, River Gee, Rivercess, and Rural Montserrado counties in order to reach a broader population of Liberian citizens and international aid workers. Due to the lack of reliable Internet access in many of the rural counties, TCC/ATI relayed several of the briefings and important stories to local stations and encouraged them to seek community feedback around specific issues via live call-in programming.

### 5.8.2. ENGAGE COUNTY FOI NETWORKS IN FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.)

#### 5.8.2.1. SUPPORT COUNTY FOI NETWORKS TO ASSURE LOCAL DISSEMINATION OF EBOLA-RELATED INFORMATION (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.1.)

TCC/ATI continues to provide technical assistance to seven County Freedom of Information (FOI) Networks that serve on their respective county-level EVD task forces and work to collect and disseminate EVD briefings within their communities while highlighting the value of FOI during times of national crises, and ultimately for EVD prevention. Examples of such efforts are as follows:

##### **Bong County**

The network reached more than 170 people during the quarter, hosting information dissemination and FOI events among citizens in various communities throughout the county. Further, the network gathered feedback from the community that was reported back to the task force, such as the need for the Bong County Health Team and other partners to provide hand washing buckets and disinfectants. Also during the quarter, the network members met with the county leadership and encouraged the timely provision of updates on Ebola cases and resources. As a result of these activities, the county health team and task force now provide weekly Ebola updates. Additionally, the network conducted two radio shows on Radio Gbarnga to highlight the value of FOI for ensuring accountability of Ebola resources. On the shows, network members called on the health team to proactively disclose information pertaining to all donations made to the fight against Ebola. They also encouraged Bong county citizens to make use of the FOI law to monitor expenditures against the national budget and the county social development funds.

##### **Nimba County**

The Nimba network shared EVD-related information with over 250 people at various events over the quarter including meetings held in Baintonwee, Bonlah, Bololawee, Gbondin, Karnplay, Konnon, Lugbeyee, and, Sheyikimpa. During the meetings, network members relayed government briefings, shared the value of the FOI law in holding the government accountable for the use of resources during the crisis, as well as taught community dwellers about preventive measures to control EVD.

##### **Grand Bassa County**



Over the quarter, the Grand Bassa County FOI network held EVD-related information sharing events in several locations reaching over 160 people, of which over half were women. Events were held in the local capital of Buchanan, Districts Two and Four, and the Peabery and New York communities. In addition to sharing Ebola-related information the network members spoke of the importance of transparency and accountability in the fight against EVD and encouraged them to seek more information about Ebola resources, the pandemic itself, and other available health services. Also during the quarter, the network held four radio talk shows on Radio Gbehzon and Magic FM during which network members discussed the importance of information for the development of health and the fight against EVD.

#### **River Gee County**

Over the quarter, the River Gee FOI network held EVD-related information sharing events in seven communities (some of which had been previously inaccessible) within two districts reaching over 800 people, of which over half were women. Prior to the Nyenawiliken event, community members were limited to receiving information via only one local radio station and welcomed the additional efforts, calling on increased information sharing from the county task force. Also during the quarter, the network hosted three radio shows. During one of the programs, Chief James Pam Sayee, Chairman of the Traditional Council, and Potupo District Commissioner Saylee Swen served as guests and spoke of the danger of complacency as EVD cases drop, as well as the value of freedom of information in the fight against Ebola. During the show, 26 members of the community called in to ask questions and voice their concerns. The other two shows featured the President of the Potupo District Youth Association and the President of the Association of River Gee Youth. The two distinguished guests discussed how youth and youth organizations can use the FOI Act to promote development. The youth leaders and youth who participated on the show agreed to use FOI to request information relevant to increasing development projects in the county and to promote information sharing for youth capacity building.

#### **Grand Gedeh County**

Over the reporting quarter, the network shared information about the value of FOI and Ebola resources at various meetings and events, reaching more than 580 people in 22 communities in the provincial capital of Zwedru and outlying districts. During these meetings, the network emphasized the need to continue to file requests for information, especially around EVD resources. Additionally, the network facilitated a radio show on Smile FM that hosted two members of the county EVD task force including the head of the Taskforce Secretariat, a representative of the Liberian National Red Cross, to speak of the county efforts to contain the virus.

#### **Lofa County**

During the quarter the network participated in events in Vezela, Fassovo, and Voinjama that brought together over 800 people, including more than 300 females. These events were tied to the food distribution programs and mostly focused on Ebola prevention methods.

#### **Rural Montserrado County**

The Rural Montserrado County network reached more than 100 people during the quarter, hosting information dissemination and FOI meetings among community members in Crozerville Township, Mount Barclay, and Low Cost Village—one of the villages that was hardest hit by EVD in Rural Montserrado. TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator attended some of the meetings, encouraging citizens to make use of the FOI law to learn more about government activities during the EVD crisis.

#### **5.8.2.2. SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE FEEDBACK LOOP (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.2.)**

TCC/ATI continued to support MICAT, the county FOI network coordinators, and others in developing an effective feedback loop to ensure that national information reaches the communities and that important information is being collected among community members at the local level and shared with local and national government. This has

served to provide an update of resource needs within the counties and to determine whether or not government efforts are having any impact. Over the quarter, examples of efforts to close the feedback loop include stakeholder meetings in Monrovia among national government agencies and civil society and media organizations, community-level meetings within the seven target counties with reports back to the county task forces, and call-in radio shows held by FOI network members to provide a platform for individuals to share Ebola-related concerns and resource needs. At these various events community members often voiced their concerns about the availability and use of scarce resources for Ebola-prevention efforts and the need for even greater accountability. Communities continued to request additional support and specific resources in order to take up the fight against Ebola.

### 5.8.3. SUPPORT COORINDATION AMONG KEY FOI STAKEHOLDERS (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.)

#### 5.8.3.1. FACILITATE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA OUTLETS AND JOURNALIST ASSOCIATIONS (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.1.)

To assist the Government and media to continue to work together in support of the national and international efforts to contain the Ebola virus in the country, TCC/ATI facilitated a series of meetings between MICAT and the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) which ultimately resulted in the signing of a TCC/ATI-drafted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two. The parties agreed that MICAT would continue to register media institutions while the PUL would accredit journalists, and that both would collaborate to forge a comprehensive media law reform and work together to lend support to Ebola efforts. MICAT and PUL had differed on the issues of media accreditation when MICAT announced that it would register both media institutions and individual journalists. Information Minister Lewis Brown announced the MOU at an elaborate press briefing at the Ministry. PUL President Abdullai Kamara read the provisions of the MOU, indicating the Union's commitment to the terms. Minister Brown thanked TCC/ATI for facilitating the meetings that culminated into the MOU. As a result of these engagements, the PUL now attends the National Communication Committee meeting and carried out media encounters with MICAT to discuss how to improve Ebola coverage.

In furtherance of this objective, TCC/ATI provided technical assistance to MICAT and the PUL in convening media managers and senior editors and reporters. The first session brought together 50 managers, supported by IREX and UNICEF. TCC/ATI facilitated the discussions that ranged from support to the media to involving the press in the development of messages and guidelines. The head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in Liberia urged the media to support national and international efforts to make the country Ebola-free, while media managers spoke of the lack of support for their work. During the second part of the media managers' session, TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator facilitated a conversation on media ethics in reporting Ebola stories.

#### 5.8.3.2. CONVENE MEETINGS BETWEEN KEY STAKEHOLDERS (WORKPLAN 1.9.3.1.)

During the quarter, TCC/ATI supported several meetings among key stakeholders, including government, media, and civil society representatives, as previously noted. Additional examples include a meeting organized for 37 government and civil society leaders by TCC/ATI in November to discuss information disclosure around the use of Ebola resources; the meeting was facilitated by the Deputy Information Minister for Administration and the TCC/ATI Project Lead. During the meeting, the Deputy Information Minister emphasized government efforts to account for Ebola resources, citing the Ministry of Finance's actions to obtain agency reports on any Ebola-related funds received and disbursed and efforts by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission to visit agencies and assess systems put in place to prevent corruption, and assist agencies in accounting for what they received. TCC/ATI Project Lead emphasized the value of the FOI law as an instrument that guarantees the public's right to know, and linking the value of FOI to the current fight against EVD, noting that one key reason for the meeting was to determine the information most needed. During the discussions, stakeholders identified various EVD-related information needs, also determining which agency held which information in order to better coordinate dissemination efforts. Stakeholders agreed that there is willingness on the part of government agencies to provide information but that many officials needed additional capacity building on disclosure mechanisms.

In addition to the Monrovia meetings, TCC/ATI supported the county FOI networks to attend community meetings with local government agencies and civil society groups in order to share information and highlight the value of FOI and greater accountability in the fight against Ebola. For example, in Grand Gedeh, the FOI network coordinator attended a meeting called by the National Elections Commission to update political parties and partners on the state of the Special Senatorial Elections. During the meeting, the network coordinator encouraged participants to file requests for information with the National Elections Commission (NEC). And, in River Gee, the local FOI network attended a meeting of the Human Development, Economic Transformation, Peace, Security & Rule of Law Working Committee during which the network coordinator spoke to the 46 people in attendance about the value of FOI and the activities in the county to advance transparency and accountability.

#### 5.8.4. CONTINUE DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING FOI TRACKING SYSTEM (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.)

##### 5.8.4.1. SUPPORT LFIC TO ESTABLISH TRACKING SYSTEM AND RAISE AWARENESS (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.1.)

While most of TCC/ATI efforts were focused on assisting in the development and implementation of information dissemination mechanisms and feedback loops in light of the EVD crisis, to move the System for Tracking and Monitoring FOI (STAM-FOI) forward, TCC/ATI finalized its review of the penultimate draft of the STAM-FOI and hotline manual and has begun making final revisions to the document.

##### 5.8.4.2. COORDINATORS FOLLOW-UP WITH CSOS AND CRSS FOR REQUESTS AND RESPONSES (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.2.)

County FOI network coordinators continued to focus their efforts on information dissemination at the local level, as well as obtaining community feedback to report to local and national government in lieu of following up on specific requests for information. Such efforts are slated to be a greater focus when EVD dissipates in the country. However, during the quarter, some networks conducted limited follow-up work.

Illustrative examples include:

- Bong County FOI Network followed up on a request by the Foundation for International Dignity to the county health team to provide information on funds received from the GOL and other donors and how the resources were used.
- Rural Montserrado FOI network followed up on three requests for information, including a request for a breakdown on the use of the thirty thousand Liberian Dollars (LD\$30,000) given to the Commissioner to fight Ebola from the County Development Fund; a request to the Benthol city Mayor's office about some funds and 35 bags of rice received from the government to fight EVD in the county; and a request to explain the usage of US\$9,975 that was received by the local hospital to fight Ebola.
- In Lofa, the FOI Network Coordinator followed up with the Concerned Lofa Youth Secretariat which made a FOI request to the District Ebola Task force of Gbarguo on how materials provided for the EVD fight are being used; wrote to the county health team to find out if the \$8m Liberian dollars promised as benefit to the families of EVD-health workers had been received; and asked for a report on the International Red Cross contribution of seven thousand gallons of gas to the county health team to help fight the virus and the youths had asked for a report.
- River Gee network coordinator followed up with the county leadership on a request that network members filed for regarding a breakdown report on the use of US\$75,000 received from the County Development Fund to fight Ebola.

##### 5.8.4.3. COUNTY COORDINATORS SHARE TRACKING DATA WITH LFIC (WORKPLAN 1.9.4.3.)

During the recent quarter and in light of a greater focus on the dissemination of EVD-related information, county FOI coordinators did not regularly share request tracking data with the Liberian Freedom of Information Coalition (LFIC) although there were some isolated instances in which TCC/ATI assisted in transferring information to LFIC.

#### **5.8.5. PROVIDE FOI TRAINING FOR CSO NETWORK LEADERS (WORKPLAN 1.9.5.)**

##### **5.8.5.1. DEVELOP TRAINING OF TRAINERS MANUAL (WORKPLAN 1.9.5.1.)**

During the quarter, TCC/ATI met with consultant and colleague Oscar Bloh to discuss a plan for finalizing the Training of Trainers manual in early 2015.

Also, in December, TCC/ATI support FOI network leaders to resume some trainings for CSOs and CBOs on the use the FOI. In December, the Grand Gedeh County FOI network held a training session with three staff of Liberia United for Peace and Development, a local CSO which requested the training. Additionally, the Grand Bassa FOI network conducted a training of 15 teachers from various schools in Buchanan on the value of FOI and how to file requests for information, providing copies of the law to the participants. Further, the Nimba network trained community based groups on how to write and file FOI requests. The community groups identified Ebola funding from the county development funds as needed information.

#### **5.8.6. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CSOS TO UNDERGO THEMATIC CAMPAIGNS (WORKPLAN 1.9.6.)**

##### **5.8.6.1. DEVELOP THEMATIC CAMPAIGNS, INCLUDING POTENTIAL FOR INCORPORATING TCC WOMEN AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION PROGRAM METHODOLOGY (WORKPLAN 1.9.6.1.)**

During the quarter, TCC/ATI and the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP) agreed on an arrangement that allows CEMESP to shift the focus of its concession campaign in Bong and Grand Bassa to instead focus on accountability for Ebola resources. CEMESP reworked its original concession campaign proposal to incorporate Ebola resource accountability activities. TCC/ATI reviewed and approved the revised proposal and budget, and began amending the formal agreement.

Once the agreement was finalized, TCC/ATI supported CEMESP to begin holding meetings in Bong and Grand Bassa counties with CSOs and community radio journalists. Twenty persons (10 each in Bong and Grand Bassa) attended the initial meeting during which CEMESP provided an overview of the project and encouraged CSOs, community radio journalists, and community members to review their county-specific Ebola resources, government response processes and procedures, and services around which they could begin generating FOI requests. Participants also were briefed about the media component of the project through which newspaper and radio reports will be packaged and disseminated after the FOI requests are filed and the requested information is provided or denied. These media reports will serve as a means of sharing information to the wider public about the progress or challenges encountered. Participants identified specific information needs and wrote letters of requests for information, but noted that redress options for denials have not been working. CEMESP assured support at all stages of tracking the responses including follow up to denial of any redress mechanisms.

#### **5.8.7. MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION (WORKPLAN 1.9.7.)**

TCC/ATI did not develop any materials during the reporting quarter.

### **5.9. OBJECTIVE EIGHT (WORKPLAN 1.10.)**

The Ebola crisis, and subsequent adjustments of the election timeline throughout this quarter led to various barriers to the effective implementation and coordination of election activities leading up to the Special Senatorial Election, which was held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

In late October there was broad consensus that the election would be held on December 16th, and on November 17th, the NEC held a launch event re-affirming the 16th as the expected date and announcing that the campaign period would begin on November 20th. Subsequently, several political parties took the NEC to the Supreme Court of Liberia requesting a ban on the holding of elections due to the outbreak of Ebola and on November 28th the Court asked NEC to suspend all election related activities until a hearing into the matter is held. The IREX CoP called an emergency meeting on November 29th, and it was decided that all election-related activities and spending be suspended until the decision is made.

Finally, on December 13<sup>th</sup> the Supreme Court ruled against stopping the election and lifted the stay order, and on December 14th NEC pronounced December 20th as the new date for holding the election. These shifts throughout the quarter led to unfortunate delays in the implementation of Election-related activities, and required several activities to be completed in the six days between the finalization of the new date and election day.

#### 5.9.1. COORDINATE ELECTON ACTIVITIES AT SEMI-MONTHLY COORDINATION MEETING WITH PARTNERS (WORKPLAN 1.10.1.)

Election meetings were not held during the previous quarter due to the Ebola crisis, concerns regarding gatherings among the partners, and not yet having a secure election date. During the Partner Meeting held on October 16th (see section 5.1.2.1.), the Partners expressed their desire to resume Election Coordination meetings in light of the expected election date of December 16th. The partners asked that the meetings shift to twice per month in light of the need for ongoing coordination and also asked that coordination of Ebola-related activities be included in the discussion.

As such, a coordination meeting was held on Friday, October 31st with attendance from PUL, LMC, LIWOMAC, WONGOSOL, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), and ECC. The partners shared their planned activities for Ebola and Election-related activities for early November and also engaged in valuable discussion on the various concerns and challenges that they are experiencing and anticipate in light of the upcoming election. These concerns included fears that the election would be viewed as illegitimate, that voters would not be willing to vote due to fear of and preoccupation with Ebola, and that polling staff and centers would need to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and of voters.

Additional meetings were held with partners on November 17th and 28th, where the partners shared their upcoming plans, discussed opportunities for coordination and collaboration and discussed at length their concerns and fears in regards to the upcoming election and the ongoing Ebola crisis.

At the meeting on November 17th, Senesee Freeman of International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), who is supporting the NEC's implementation of the election, joined the meeting where he spoke and responded to questions for 30 minutes to share the NEC's plans for the planned election on the 16th and precautions they were putting in place to reduce Ebola-related risks.

There were no meetings held in December as IREX and its partner were implementing election activities in full force in anticipation of Election Day.

#### 5.9.2. VOTE SMART VANS (WORKPLAN 1.10.2.)

##### 5.9.2.1. ROLL-OUT OF VSVS IN 15 COUNTIES (WORKPLAN 1.10.2.1.)

*Seven thousand four hundred and twenty (7,420) Liberians (3686 males and 3734 females) in nine (9) counties received information about the election via the Vote Smart Vans.*

*Seventeen thousand five hundred (17,500) eligible voters (8,670 males and 8,830 females) were engaged by the VSV volunteer network's door-to-door outreach campaign.*

*Two thousand five hundred and sixty (2,560) eligible voters (1489 males and 1071 females) were informed about key information relating to the election via telephone calls from VSV Call Center volunteers.*

Throughout October, the NAYMOTE team utilized the Vote Smart Vans (VSV) and the network of VSV volunteers in the 15 counties to conduct Ebola awareness raising and outreach (see section 5.11.1.3.).

With the expected election date quickly approaching, NAYMOTE and IREX's Senior Program Manager met in late October and early November to discuss the modified VSV grant to adjust planned activities based on the Ebola crisis and its impact on the Election timeline and possible activities. Certain activities were discontinued (i.e., large gatherings such as sporting events and performances) while others were added (i.e., utilizing the Call Center to conduct civic engagement and raise awareness around the new election date, etc.). In light of the shifting environment and Ebola-related concerns, NAYMOTE recommended a renewed focus on three pillars: promoting non-violence, ensuring ongoing Ebola awareness in the midst of the campaign and election season, and general civic education.

In November and December the Vote Smart Vans with support from the VSV volunteer network reached 7,420 community residents (3686 males and 3734 females) in Montserrado, Bomi, Capemount, Margibi, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Rivercess and Grand Bassa counties. The VSV volunteers in the counties supported the movement of the van by informing local leaders and community members about the van and also translating the key messages of the van in the different local vernaculars as needed. Citizens asked questions and shared their concerns with the volunteers and VSV staff and they were able to get answers to important issues such as the tenure of the people that are going to be elected, the voting procedure as well as the NEC measures to prevent the spread of Ebola.

Also in November, the team held "street talk" discussions, where they encouraged voters to share their thoughts and concerns related to the upcoming election. The team interviewed 76 voters in Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Grand Capemount and Bomi counties to gauge whether they planned to vote, what issues were most important to them, and how they saw Ebola impacting this election and their willingness to vote, if at all. Interest and awareness about this engagement was furthered through NAYMOTE's usage of social media, and participation in radio talk shows including One Voice-UN MIL Radio, Legislative spotlight-Truth F.M, Lux F.M, Early Morning Talk-Radio Nimba, and Radio Gbarnga.

Apart from van movement and "street talk" discussions led by the NAYMOTE team, the VSV network also conducted door-to-door outreach in December to raise awareness around the election. A total of 17,500 eligible voters (8,670 males and 8,830 females) were reached via this approach across the 15 counties.

The Call Center also served a valuable role in disseminating important information about the election. The tool was first developed to support NAYMOTE's Ebola work (see 5.11.1.3.) and it was NAYMOTE who suggested at the partners' meeting in October (see 5.1.2.1.) that they maintain the Call Center for their election outreach efforts as it had already proven to be an effective means of getting messages out to a lot of people in a short amount of time. In November and December, NAYMOTE's Call Center volunteers made calls to 2,560 eligible voters (1489 males and 1071 females), sharing key messages to support the three pillars referenced earlier, and answering questions posed by the voters. One individual in Monrovia who received a call from a Call Center volunteer on election day to remind him to vote and avoid conflict shared his gratitude for the call, stating that "even though I'm tired with this voting business, I will try to go and vote today but what I can promise now is that I will make sure that my children and the youth in my community stay away from violence during this time."

The County Coordinators trained through the VSV program also conducted calls to their networks, further enhancing the number of individuals reached by an additional 1,000 eligible voters (569 males and 431 females).



As referenced in section 5.9, the “stay order” issued by the Supreme Court slowed NAYMOTE’s productivity as they were not able to conduct any engagement via the vans, door-to-door outreach, community events, or Call Center from November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. However, despite the lost time, the team was very successful in reaching a large amount of people across the 15 counties, largely due to their large and inspired network of volunteers. NAYMOTE has expressed gratitude for the opportunity to implement this project largely because it broadened their network beyond what they had previously thought possible—whereas previously they had only worked with volunteers in six counties, through the CSML program they are now in all 15 counties and they are now well known and respected across the country—a network and reputation they will continue to benefit from in their future efforts.

#### 5.9.2.1.1. PRODUCE FINAL DOCUMENTARY (WORKPLAN 1.9.2.1.2.)

NAYMOTE is currently working on their final documentary that captures the successes and activities of the Vote Smart Van project. This will be submitted, reviewed, and finalized in January.

### 5.9.3. SPECIAL ELECTION GRANTS (WORKPLAN 1.10.3.)

#### 5.9.3.1. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN EACH RPS’ GRANT TO DISTRIBUTE TO CSOS FOR ELECTION ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.10.3.1.)

*An estimated 1,659 (one thousand six hundred fifty-nine) citizens were directly engaged in discussing elections and non-violence by CSML CSOs, while another 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) heard megaphone announcements and promotions.*

*Two (2) CSOs trained 40 (forty) peace animators to promote peace and resolve issues that could cause violence.*

*Two (2) towns experienced election disturbances in which CSML CSOs made a decided difference in preserving peace.*

As noted in 5.1.2.1., 34 CSOs were successful in designing and implementing 31 grant projects (some working jointly) related to the election or Constitution Review, although the changing dates of the election and the short timeframe that existed in the end required re-planning their focus and design during the month of December and quick action the week of the election.

Another issue was getting the funds out quickly enough for use within the five days before the election. Some RPs had already closed for the Christmas holidays, but in the December 15<sup>th</sup> emergency meeting, everyone agreed to work overtime and during their holiday leave to get the funds out. This still required RPs to find Board members for signing checks during an unusual week and send multiple vehicles out to the field. Fortunately the potential problem of spending the money fast enough once it was received had been considerably eased by the fact that all election grants had been reduced earlier because of the prohibition of large gatherings and the potential for a short election period and re-allocated for Ebola grant activities under IREX’s Ebola Response Plan. The meeting also discussed the possible need to carry some of the activities promoting non-violence to the post-election period if they could not be completed before the election, as the post-election period has been a period of protests and disputes during the last two elections. As it turned out, all CSOs completed their activities before the election, and the post-election period was calm, except for small flare ups discussed below.

The typical reports from the CSOs are that participants appreciated the opportunity, especially given the shortness of the campaign period, to finally be engaged by an organization that was trained to answer their many diverse questions about the election. Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS) wrote that participants in Foequelleh and Bellemu, Bong County, “were very apathetic about voting” because of unfulfilled promises from the last election, but that after the events they “promised to cast their votes.”

Two episodes, on election day and the day the NEC results were read, provide just a small insight into the total impact of CSOs' work to prevent violence around elections. In Grand Gedeh County, Feeding House Organization (FHO) and Gbarzon Youth Development Association (GBAYDA) trained 10 animators in each of four towns on causes of election violence and mobilizing to promote non-violence. One of the towns was Jarwodee, the administrative seat of Gbarzon Statutory District. When the results were heard there, supporters of a losing candidate set up barricades to obstruct supporters of the winning candidate from moving through town to celebrate. The animators who benefited from the two-day training immediately organized themselves and moved in to intervene. They worked with the losing party's supporters as they had practiced in their training and were able to restore peace, which has been sustained since then.

In another case, a CSO's election day activities put their staff in the right spot for responding successfully to a violent episode. On election day after voting was closed, violence erupted in Weajour Town, Bomi County, among youth partisans of two major parties. Flomo Theatre Production (FTP) staff happened to be on the scene and quickly acted to bring together community leaders and party representatives to discuss the problem: a story was going around that ballot papers were being handled inappropriately. In tracking down the details they learned that someone had walked into the polling station after the election and saw ballot papers being moved. He interpreted this as officials cheating and raised an alarm. It turned out that the person came after counting was complete and all observers and parties had accepted the results, and had actually seen the ballot papers being packed to be taken to NEC. When this information was passed around, the youth were satisfied. FTP's ability to bring people together and sort out the facts led citizens of Weajour Town to request their involvement in settling other community disputes and religious problems.

#### 5.9.3.2. CONDUCT ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (WORKPLAN 1.10.3.2.)

*A total of 241 persons (156 males and 85 females) attended Youth Interactive Forums in four cities of three counties.*

Due to the Ebola crisis and closure of schools, YMCA was unable to complete the activities it had begun through schools in three counties on a Multi County Essay Contest. YMCA recommended to IREX to host a Youth Interactive forum as a replacement and submitted a new concept to the CS Team.

The Forum activities were implemented from December 16-18 at four locations within three counties—Gbarnga, Bong County; Ganta, Nimba County; and Voinjama and Zorzor, Lofa County. The program was aired live on the local community radio stations in the four communities, and copies were made on CDs.

The Youth Interactive Forum focused on three key topics, as follows:

- 1) Youth participation in decision making and politics
- 2) Youth Participation in elections and promotion of non-violent elections
- 3) Women participation in decision making and politics

During the mobilization process, the topics were shared with targeted youth groups to develop and make panel presentations at the Forum. Across the four Forums a total of 22 youth served as panelists on these themes, but because the forums could only be implemented in the week leading up to the election, the theme that dominated the discussion period was the second one, youth participation in elections and promotion of non-violent elections. The focus on youth participation was enhanced by a presentation on election procedures by the NEC Communications Director.

Before the end of each Forum leaders of the youth groups attending made statements of commitment to participate in the election and to promote non-violence, which were aired on the local radio stations covering the events. To stimulate a further outcome, participants in the Forum made commitments to serve as ambassadors in their communities to encourage people to turn out to vote and to avoid violence.

A total of 241 person attended the four forums, 156 males and 85 females. Among the participants, 216 were youth under 35.

#### 5.9.3.3. HOLD SPORTS EVENTS TO PROMOTE NON-VIOLENCE AND YOUTH/WOMEN ENGAGEMENT (WORKPLAN 1.10.3.3.)

*Interactive Forums for Peace were held in three (3) counties for one hundred and thirty five (135) participants (89 males, 46 females, 93 youths) the week leading up to the election.*

The sports tournaments DEN-L had planned for promoting peaceful elections could not be held because of Ebola, so DEN-L organized instead three Special Senatorial Election Forums for Peace, one in each of Bong, Lofa, and Nimba Counties. At each forum two speakers were designated to speak on the themes, “Young people and Liberia’s emerging democracy: Up scaling Liberia’s democracy recovery”; and “Maintaining Liberia’s peace during this Special Senatorial Elections: A time to reflect.” Once again, participants were pleased to be engaged in this manner and left with their questions answered and a better understanding of the important roles they each had as young people voting. A third person gave a presentation on ballot paper marking. The last topic was to have been covered by the local Election Magistrate, but they were not able to show up at any of the programs because of their heavy schedules that week.

#### 5.9.4. JOURNALISM TRAININGS (WORKPLAN 1.10.4.)

##### 5.9.4.1. CONDUCT RUMOR MONGERING/CONFLICT SENSITIVE REPORTING TRAINING (WORKPLAN 1.10.4.1.)

*Sixteen (16) community radio station journalists (15 males and 1 female) participated in a five-day training on conflict-sensitive election reporting.*

Despite some delays as a result of the Ebola crisis, in late November 16 community radio journalists from CSML’s seven targeted counties participated in a five-day training on conflict-sensitive election reporting at DEN-L campus in Gbarnga. Held from November 24-28, consultant Frank Sainworla provided the journalists with strategies and tips to ensure that their Ebola coverage does not fuel conflict and tension as well as how to engage voters and candidates in a conversation on how the Ebola crisis is affecting citizen participation in the electoral process, as well as candidates platforms. Sainworla also emphasized the basic principles of journalism, stressing the need for reporters to be balanced, fair, and impartial in their reporting and to avoid name-calling and hate speech in their reports and radio talk shows.

Reporters also learned how to focus on the keys issues in the 2014 Special Senatorial Election including the legislative budget and County Development Fund, and to develop spot messages designed to promote peaceful elections and capture the voices of voters in their reporting and talk shows.

##### 5.9.4.2. GIRLS’ MEDIA FRONTIERS (WORKPLAN 1.10.4.3.)

*Twenty-four (24) young women from eight (8) counties obtained audio and video production skills under the GMF program.*

##### 5.9.4.2.1. PROVIDE TRAININGS TO LIWOMAC AND SELECTED GMF PARTICIPANTS (WORKPLAN 1.10.4.3.1)

5.9.4.2.1.1. PROVIDE BASIC TRAINING ON VIDEO AND RADIO CONTENT PRODUCTION AND EDITING FOR  
SELECTED GIRLS (WORKPLAN 1.10.4.3.1.1.)

The GMF training kicked off on November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary on Robertsfield Highway. Twenty-four young women from eight counties participated in the training facilitated by American broadcast journalist David McDonald. The participants came from Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Grand Bassa, and River Gee counties.

From November 24-28, the young women participated in a series of press conference exercises that included officials from the Ministry of Health, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC), representatives from the Disability Association and Women's AIDS Network, and a nurse working at the ETU in Bomi County.

The young women learned how to cover the Special Senatorial Election with a special focus on women candidates and women's issues, as well as how to tell the stories of grassroots women and the background of Liberian women's struggle for equal rights.

Throughout the week the young women gained practical experience in using a video camera and audio tape recorders. Some of the young women had some knowledge about audio, but the video equipment was new to all of them. They also learned to write scripts and about the importance of using their voice to tell the stories of women in their communities and the issues that affect them.

The young women received tape recorders, earphones, microphones and other equipment to assist them in their reporting at community radio stations. The young women said they were glad to return to their communities with equipment to enable them to do more reporting.

At the end of the first week, the young women developed story ideas they planned to pursue during the second week of training, which continued through December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Agenda for this first week of training is included with this report as Attachment 4.

5.9.4.2.2. GMF PARTICIPANTS PRODUCE AND EDIT VIDEO/RADIO CONTENT (WORKPLAN  
1.10.4.3.2.)

The second week of the GMF training, which ran from December 1-5, focused primarily on field work. The young women worked out of the LWDR studio, where they broke out in six reporting teams. They produced stories about the impact of Ebola on women, education and agriculture, and citizens' views on the postponement of the Special Senatorial Election.

After the field work, IREX consultant David McDonald helped them edit their stories, and write scripts and captions for photos. Some of their stories were aired on LWDR in December. They also produced a television program highlighting the video reports they produced during the training. The program was aired on the Liberian Broadcasting System television on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

During the closing ceremony, the young women said that the program strengthened their reporting skills and enhanced their technical skills in radio production and they acquired new skills in video production. The consultant also produced a promo video for the program. In the 3-minute video, the young women focused on the theme "My Voice Matters" and talked about the issues they plan to report on as part of the GMF program. The Agenda for this second week of training is included with this report as Attachment 5, and the full training manual for the GMF program and the Consultant's final report are included as Attachment 6 and 7, respectively.

Though the timeframe was shortened due to the Ebola crisis and "stay order" the GMF participants were able to begin to use their new skills to capture women's voices in the 2014 election. On December 20<sup>th</sup> the young women contributed to LWDR's coverage of the Special Senatorial Election, reporting from polling stations in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa and Lofa. They also produced two tv programs that

were aired LNTV and Sky during the quarter. There's also a Facebook page that showcases the work of the young women <https://www.facebook.com/girlsmediafrontier>).

## 5.9.5. ELECTION REPORTING CENTER (WORKPLAN 1.10.5.)

### 5.9.5.1. RE-ESTABLISH ERC AT THE LMC (WORKPLAN 1.10.5.1.)

The uncertainty surrounding the Special Senatorial Election posed numerous challenges for the LMC and other partners implementing election-related activities. When the Supreme Court lifted the "stay order" on the election on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the LMC scrambled to update stories on the ERC website, "Liberia Votes" Facebook page, and mobilize the 15 county coordinators to train nearly 300 reporters and monitors to prepare for the election.

Due to time constraints, it was not possible to conduct a full scale training for the 300 reporters hired to monitor and report on Election Day activities. As discussed below in section 5.9.5.1.1., the LMC provided ToT training for 26 Election Reporting staff. The 15 county coordinators provided mentoring and training via phone and in person to reporters in their various counties. The ERC consultant and LMC staff also provided daily training and mentoring to the four platform operators to guide them in their discussion with reporters in the field.

Several months ahead of December, the LMC contacted political candidates to respond to a series of questions regarding their platform on a variety of issues, but only 20 of the 139 candidates responded. The LMC had edited videos of 18 candidates, but the process was delayed because of the "stay order". Because of time, IREX and the LMC agreed that it would be unfair to publish a partial list of candidates and their platform. It was decided to post short bios, pictures of the candidates on the website instead of long profiles. The profiles were posted on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

IREX eliminated the vote tabulation feature of ERC in mid-November at the request of USAID, having been informed about a new USAID policy barring vote tabulation.

#### 5.9.5.1.1. TRAIN ERC STAFFERS AND ELECTION MONITORS AND REPORTERS (WORKPLAN 1.9.5.2.1.)

*Twenty-six (26) ERC staff participated in a three-day training led by LMC and NEC to prepare them to monitor election activities.*

From November 23-35, the LMC in partnership with NEC conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for 26 Election Reporting Center staff at Shark's Restaurant in Monrovia, including seven media monitors, 15 county coordinators, and four platform operators.

During the three days, participants learned about the NEC regulations, roles and responsibilities of election monitors, the role of civil society in monitoring elections, how to respond to election violence, and how to monitor political parties to ensure transparency.

### 5.9.5.2. REPORTERS/MONITORS IN THE FIELD TO MONITOR ELECTION-DAY ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.10.5.4.)

The ERC reporters were deployed around the country on December 19<sup>th</sup>, a day before the election. On Election Day, a three person team from the LMC uploaded stories from the field on the Daily News Aggregator on the ERC website. The team also linked stories from major news dailies.

The LMC team also collected Election Day photos and stories from around the country and posted them on the Facebook page and website. The Senior Media Specialist stopped by the LMC on Election Day to assist the LMC in organizing the day's coverage.

Monitors and reporters reported voter turnout and overall election activity from polling places around across the 15 counties. The ERC staff fielded phone calls from monitors and reporters in the field and posted updates on voter turnout, the impact of Ebola on the election and provided anecdotes of voter participation. Pictures and news updates from the field were posted on the “Liberia Votes” Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/423292971144237/?fref=ts>

The ERC Election Day activities also included a special three-hour television analysis moderated by broadcast consultant Frank Sainworla. From 6 to 9 p.m. on December 20th, Sainworla invited a panel of journalists, election monitors, and experts to discuss the election on the Liberia Broadcasting System television. With funding from IREX, the LMC refurbished the LBS studio to facilitate the live broadcast.

During the show, Sainworla reminded journalists to be ethical in their reporting and stressed the need for them to be conflict sensitive in their reporting in order to avoid violence and tension.

#### 5.9.6. TAKING THE CANDIDATES TO THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE TO THE CANDIDATES (WORKPLAN 1.10.6.)

##### 5.9.6.1. HOLD MODERATED DEBATES IN 15 COUNTIES (WORKPLAN 1.10.6.1.)

*2,377 citizens (16254 males and 752 females) participated in thirteen (13) debates organized by the PUL*

The PUL kicked off the 2014 Special Senatorial Election debates on November 25th in Margibi County. Eight of the 13 candidates running to be Senator of Margibi County participated in the debate held under the platform: “Taking the Candidates to the people and the People to the Candidates.”

The PUL prepared for 200 people, but the event attracted 600. The moderator kept the candidates to a restricted time limit, but lost control of the debate when the candidates responded to each other, hurling personal attacks instead of focusing on the issue. The debate was called off because the crowd got rowdy when questions were solicited from the audience.

The PUL had anticipated a large crowd and tried to mitigate this concern by distributing 10 tickets per candidate. However, tickets were distributed while the candidates were on the platform. As a result, it was difficult to exercise crowd control because the candidates had already shown up with their supporters, many of them without tickets.

Based on the experience of the first debate, IREX’s Chief of Party and the Media Team met with the PUL on November 26th to discuss ideas for monitoring crowd control to ensure that future debates don’t get out of hand and don’t put citizens at risk for Ebola. PUL and IREX decided to reserve five tickets for each candidate at each debate. Other recommendations included checking temperatures at the door and posting ushers at the door to ensure crowd control.

Some of these measures were put in place for the second debate on November 28th in Ganta, Nimba County. Four of the six candidates vying to become the next Nimba County Senator participated in the debate. Incumbent Prince Johnson did not show up, though he was campaigning in the area. The Ganta debate was orderly and the candidates focused on the issues.

Five community radio stations from each of the counties were present at both debates to carry live broadcast of the debates.

The debates planned for November 29th and 30th in Lofa and Maryland counties were canceled after the Supreme Court issued a temporary “stay order” suspending all election-related activities. When the court lifted the stay order, the PUL submitted a plan to organize the 13 remaining debates in a span of five days. The PUL managed to hold



debates in Gbarpolu, Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Maryland, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Rivercess and Grand Kru counties.

Debates in Montserrado and Grand Bassa counties were not held because none of the candidates showed up. The debates were held very close to election day after the Supreme court lifted the stay order. Many candidates in these counties preferred to be out campaigning rather than participating in a debate.

### 5.9.7. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.)

#### 5.9.7.1. PROMOTE WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN POLITICAL PROCESS AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.1.)

##### 5.9.7.1.1. CONDUCT RADIO TALK SHOW PROGRAMS TO DISCUSS WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND THE 30% QUOTA (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.1.1.)

In light of the Ebola crisis and shifting timeline of the election the Gender and Youth Manager at IREX worked with WONGOSOL during the early part of this quarter to modify their grant agreement—adjusting both the time frame of the grant and the activities to reflect restrictions on gatherings, mobility, etc.

WONGOSOL re-strategized their initial plan of holding regional forums to instead hold community radio talk shows to address the bill establishing a 30% quote for women's political participation, hereafter referred to as the 30% quota bill. WONGOSOL worked with nine stations in six counties to hold live radio talk shows that featured experts on the content of the bill and included opportunities for listeners to call and participate in the talk shows. Both the forums held in the previous quarter and the talk shows this quarter increased awareness of the 30% quota bill and enlightened citizens of the benefits of having the bill passed into law. The increased awareness is expected to help CSOs and citizens at large to advocate and lobby with stakeholders to have the bill passed into law.

##### 5.9.7.1.2. ENGAGE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING PARTICIPANTS TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION AND EBOLA AWARENESS (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.1.2.)

During the reporting period, some participants of the Women's Leadership Training were engaged by WONGOSOL to ascertain their progress on implementing the skills learned at the training within their communities. They also participated in a video documentary targeted at documenting women's participation in the electoral processes as well as capturing concerns women have in relation to the Ebola response in their community. The video documentary will form part of the report to be released at the Post Election Roundtable

##### 5.9.7.1.3. CONDUCT DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.1.3.)

WONGOSOL's network members with support from the Field Supervisors also conducted door-to-door outreach in CSML's seven target counties to encourage women to participate in the Constitutional Review process and vote in the Special Senatorial Elections. The WONGOSOL members focused specifically on informing citizens—primarily women—to replace their lost or damaged Voter ID cards in the appropriate time allotted by the NEC, as well as to inform voters about the shifting election timeline to ensure that they knew when to vote and what Ebola-related precautions would be in place. Throughout the period of WONGOSOL's grant a total of 36 outreach trips were made across the seven counties and approximately 8,793 persons were sensitized to turn out and vote.

##### 5.9.7.1.4. CONDUCT LIVE INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN TO DETERMINE THEIR VIEWS ON PROPOSED ELECTION DATE AND EBOLA RESPONSE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.1.4.)

WONGOSOL contracted 11 Community Radio Stations to conduct live interviews targeted at gathering women's views on holding elections during the ongoing Ebola crisis as well as their perception of Ebola response in their

communities, this included the women who participated in the Women's Leadership Training earlier in the year (see section 5.9.7.1.2.).

#### 5.9.7.2. FINAL ROUNDTABLE/REPORT (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.2.)

##### 5.9.7.2.1. CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP ELECTION REPORT DOCUMENTING RESULTS OF INDICATORS AND ANALYZING WOMEN'S INCLUSION AND BARRIERS TO INFORM 2017 PROCESS (WORKPLAN 1.10.7.2.1.)

As preparation for the Post-Election Report on Women's Participation in the Special Senatorial Election processes, WONGOSOL and a consulting firm did a mapping of stakeholders and developed tools to conduct key informant interviews with those identified. A total of 42 institutions and individuals were selected across CSML's target seven counties to participate in the interviews.

Following the mapping exercise, WONGOSOL in collaboration with the consulting firm conducted interviews with the 42 institutions to gather information on women's participation in the electoral processes. The NEC and IFES were among institutions interviewed. The results of these interviews will form part of the final report.

During the reporting period, WONGOSOL and the consulting firm also finalized a template for the Post Election Report.

#### 5.9.8. ELECTION COORDINATION COMMITTEE (WORKPLAN 1.10.8.)

##### 5.9.8.1. CAMPAIGN MONITORING (WORKPLAN 1.9.8.1.)

###### 5.9.8.1.1. MONITOR THE CAMPAIGN PROCESS (WORKPLAN 1.10.8.1.1.)

Thirty-four campaign monitors were deployed across the country in November to monitor the campaign process, which was officially launched on November 20th. Under supervision from the ECC Secretariat, the monitors provided regular updates on the development of campaigns across the country. Among some of the key findings coming from the field included: 1) complacency by electorates in adhering to public health measures over the fight against Ebola; 2) in some quarters, voters expressed lack of interest in showing up to vote during election day due to poor representation by current legislators; 3) some voters threatened to boycott the election because of the Ebola scare; and 4) there was rising tension both in Monrovia and rural Liberia and concerns over potential election-related violence. In response to this, ECC issued a press release condemning the skirmish that ensued between supporters of George Weah and Robert Sirleaf. The release also cautioned electorates and candidates to engage in a more civil electoral process and avoid confrontation that could lead to election violence (see Attachment 8).

Earlier in November, the ECC issued a Press Release regarding accusations from Front Page Africa that the NEC had demonstrated "Gross Financial Indiscipline" in their usage and distribution of election funds. ECC requested in this release that the NEC make "the budget public without further delay." This Press Release is included with this report as Attachment 9.

##### 5.9.8.2. ELECTION-DAY MONITORING (WORKPLAN 1.10.8.2.)

###### 5.9.8.2.1. CONDUCT TRAINING FOR 2,000 MONITORS TO MONITOR ELECTION DAY (WORKPLAN 1.10.8.2.1.)

*The Election Coordination Committee (ECC) trained 2,000 election-day observers (1112 males and 888 females) to monitor the Special Senatorial Election in 15 counties.*

In November, the ECC completed an Election Manual for distribution to the 2,000 election-day monitors providing them with a guide on all elections-related protocols (see Attachment 10). The ECC also developed an accompanying PowerPoint presentation, as well as an Election Day checklist, Election Day Critical Incidence Form, Results Reporting

Form and the checklist newly developed to assess adherence to Ebola restrictions and precautions. T-shirts were also designed and printed for distribution to all ECC observers, staff, and partners.

Also in November, the ECC recruited and hired 10 data clerks who will retrieve information from the Observers on Election Day in the ECC “situation room.” The two major functions of the Data Entry Clerks were: 1) to gather information from observers on Election Day; and 2) to input data from 2,000 Observers from voting precincts across the country

ECC had planned to conduct training for the 2,000 election-day monitors in late November through early December. However, the Supreme Court’s “stay order” led the process to be delayed until it was finally lifted on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately this left only six days for the ECC to train 2,000 individuals across 15 counties to effectively observe and report on the Senatorial election process.

To accomplish this task, the ECC worked through their members to hold Step Down trainings across the country. Training in all of the counties (except Montserrado) were held between December 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and distributed as such across ECC’s member organizations:

1. Naymote: Lofa, Bong and Margibi counties
2. CEMESP: Rivercess, Grand Bassa and Sinoe counties
3. WANEP: Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties
4. AGENDA: Grand Gedeh County
5. SFCG: Nimba County
6. IREDD: Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland counties

The Montserrado trainings were conducted on the eve of the elections, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

The trainings focused on the Election Manual, use of the Checklist, Critical Incident Report Form and the Ebola checklist. Each trainee received a manual, a NEC Accreditation Cards and a schedule of deployment within his/her respective county. The 2,000 trained monitors included 1112 males and 888 females.

#### 5.9.8.2.2. MONITOR ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.10.8.2.2.)

*Despite some issues with accreditation of observers, overall the observation process went well and the election was relatively peacefull.*

Early on Election Day many observers faced a challenge with their NEC issued accreditation Card. In previous years accreditation cards did not include the name of the observer, however this was changed in 2014 for this Senatorial election. Some individuals attempted to enter a polling place to conduct monitoring with a card that did not bear their own name, others had misspellings, and therefore both were refused from entering the polling place. The ECC had earlier advised the NEC against issuing accreditation cards with names of Observers for fear of this type of issue. When ECC was informed that some observers were being rejected phone calls were made to NEC Chairman Jerome Kokoyah and Executive Director Lami Leigh to request their support in remedying the issue. Consequently, the NEC made phone calls at polling centers that were experiencing these problems and instructed polling staff to grant access to ECC Observers in order to monitor and observe the process. By 12noon, the issue of accreditation cards was addressed across the country.

Overall, ECC declared the elections to be generally free and fair. Details of the findings are contained in a special statement issued by ECC on Elections Day (see Attachment 11). In response to some of our findings, the ECC also wrote the NEC requesting that they investigate complaints filed by some Senatorial candidates. The communication was sent a week before the Certification of successful candidates.

Notably, the Economics Community of West African States (ECOWAS) who served as international observers in the election publically spoke of their respect and admiration for the ECC's process following the election, and consequently invited ECC to nominate three individuals to observe the upcoming election in Nigeria. This invitation reflects not only an exciting opportunity for the individuals, but also serves as a nod to the efforts of the ECC in this election.

#### 5.9.8.2.3. PRODUCE COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION REPORT (WORKPLAN 1.10.8.2.3.)

The ECC is working on the final observation report and will submit it to IREX in January.

### 5.10. OBJECTIVE NINE: (WORKPLAN 1.11.)

#### 5.10.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (WORKPLAN 1.11.1.)

The Ebola crisis severely impacted RSC activities, affecting actions that were intended to be taken as a result of an investigation conducted earlier in the year on allegations of plagiarism on the part of some of the contestants of the SED competition. As IREX and consultants worked with winners of the competition to finalize their business plans, it was discovered that many of the business plans appeared to be exact replicas of each other. A three month investigation was launched and concluded in May, but some actions outlined in the investigation report were not taken due to the Ebola crisis. Summary of the final report on this issue is submitted below and a full report is included as Attachment 12.

The SED competition was held in January, 2014. The 17 CRSs and CSOs, having no foundational skills in business plan development found it difficult to finalize their business plans before the competition. Therefore, the RSC team, including the international and local consultants and DEN-L's trainers and mentors decided to work with them to summarize each plan to be used for the competition. It was also decided that each organization should be judged on their presentation and business concept during the competition and not the business plans as they were not finalized (See Scorecard as Attachment 13).

While working with the winners to finalize the business plans after the competition, the international consultant discovered that many of the plans appeared to be copied from each other. Reading of the business plans by IREX's Senior RSC Program Officer and Senior Program Manager confirmed that the plans showed strong similarities with each other. In view of this, the Senior RSC Program Officer met with the CoP and Samuka Konneh, the local Sol Plaatje consultant. In this meeting the CoP expressed serious dissatisfaction about the news of plagiarism in IREX's program and admonished the Senior RSC Program Officer to meet with the RSC team at DEN-L to identify the cause of the problem so that IREX can take appropriate follow-on action. The meeting with the RSC team at DEN-L was held and the team took responsibility in part for the action.

After three months of investigation, it was discovered that the CSOs and CRSs were not responsible for the cutting and pasting which led to the apparent plagiarism. The DEN-L RSC team was largely responsible. Working with the consultants, templates had been developed to help the organizations design their business plans. Apparently one or two templates were filled in, and the mentors at DEN-L (RSC team) began cutting and pasting them into various business plans in an attempt to complete the plans before the competition. They owned up to this, calling it a mistake. They noted that this was not an attempt to plagiarize. However, DEN-L sent IREX a statement and listed additional reasons for the alleged plagiarism. Among them, the pressure to meet the deadline set by IREX for the competition. Our conclusion is that DEN-L mentors did not fully recognize the implications of their cutting and pasting.

After the submission of this report the team at IREX met and agreed that the SED competition results would not be voided because the selection process at the competition was not done based on the business plans but on the pitching skills of the presenter and the ability to defend their presentations. Bill pointed out that because of the

graveness of this act and because Arthur, DEN-L, and Samuka are all directly or indirectly responsible for this, each of them will receive a letter expressing IREX's dissatisfaction and cautioning them to take the necessary action to ensure that this is not repeated. Since then, IREX contracted Building Markets Liberia to work with the CSOs and CRSs to finalize the business plans before the social enterprises were rolled out.

#### 5.10.1.1. PROVIDE FOCUSED MENTORING IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT FOR AWARD WINNERS AND NON- WINNERS (WORKPLAN 1.11.1.1.)

The RSC team provided mentoring support to the 17 mentee organizations throughout October and November via telephone due to Ebola-related restrictions of movement, including supporting procurement and purchasing for the start-up grant winners as they set up their social enterprises. All the Social Enterprise grants ended in October but as the contracts were not completed as a result of the Ebola crisis, modified grants and concurrences were developed for nine of the 10 social enterprises. The Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) for EARS was not awarded because of the prevalence of internal issues. IREX continues to work with EARS to identify a resolution to these issues, and hopes to have it resolved by early next quarter.

In November, grant modifications were developed for Building Markets and Samuka Konneh's contract which are extended to April because of the interference of the Ebola crisis. At the close of this quarter the contracts were being submitted to the consultants for review and confirmation before being passed on to USAID and IREX Washington for approval.

In early December as movement restrictions lessened due to the improving crisis situation, the RSC team conducted field visits to seven of the 10 winners to monitor their purchasing of materials and equipment for their social enterprise. The staff found that seven of the winners had already made significant progress and two have already started to conduct business and earn income. One of the CRS partners was found to have improperly withdrawn money from their SE account and was reprimanded by the RSC team. An investigation has been conducted and the radio station has been asked to refund the money misused from the account before they can receive any additional funds as outlined in their FOG. One of the other recipients who had not yet carried out any purchasing or renovation claimed that they were slowed by the Ebola crisis, and have been advised to speed up implementation of the activity to ensure the business gets off the ground.

#### 5.10.2. PROMOTE ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNER CSOS/CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.11.2.)

Most of the Organizational Development (OD) mentoring provided in October and November was provide by telephone because of Ebola-related movement restrictions. During this time the DEN-L RSC team focused on making inquiries on the organizations' HR policies and financial documents. As restrictions lessened, from December 11 – 17 the RSC Trainers and Mentors made mentoring visit to thirteen out of the seventeen regional CSOs and CRSs. The organizations visited were Radio Bong Mine, Radio Totota, Radio Jorwah, IVA, Radio Kergheamahn, LMTU, Radio Sehnwai, BOTPAL, Radio Karn, Radio Seclepea, Radio Tappita, EARS and ADWANGA. The purpose of the visit was to verify whether or not staff contracts have been issued, distribute sample job descriptions, verify the collection and filing of staff credentials, and distribute OCA assessment forms and SED 4 Lens assessment forms.

During the visits it was discovered that with the exception of Radio Sehnwai and ADWANGA all of the organizations visited have issued contracts (employment and volunteer) for their staff members with job descriptions attached. Credentials for staff members have been collected and filed. In order to update their personnel files the Management of Radio Totota and LMTU asked their respective staff members to re-submit applications.

The organizations were issued copies of the OCA forms and the SED 4 Lenses assessment forms. Five staff members of each organization who are designated to participate in the OCA and SED 4 Lenses assessments received re-

orientation in working with the assessment forms. The organizations were informed that the assessments will commence in January in line with the schedule which the RSC will send.

#### 5.10.2.1. GENERAL MENTORING OF PARTNER CSOs/CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.11.2.1.2.)

From November 18<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>, the General Mentor with the support of the RSC team facilitated Ebola Community Leadership Forums in Bong and Nimba counties covering eight districts with about 160 community leaders. Some of the key issues brought up by these leaders included Ebola denial among youth, closure of schools resulting in youth idleness and youth prostitution, poor health services, and the need for relief distribution to Ebola-affected families (see more information on these forums in section 5.11.1.2.). In December, the General Mentor also supported eight CSOs to conduct election awareness and peaceful participation campaign activities. The mentor helped review the proposal of these organizations and developed FOGs for implementation. This support enabled the organizations to contribute to the peaceful hosting of the Special Senatorial Elections in their respective counties.

### 5.11. EBOLA-RELATED ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.7.)

#### 5.11.1. PROMOTE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.)

##### 5.11.1.1. PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO MAIN PARTNERS AND CSO PARTNERS TO HOLD TARGETED AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.1.)

*CSOs operated twenty (20) Ebola-related grants, with twenty-two (22) CSOs involved.*

The CSOs responded strongly to the need for community activities to enhance understanding of Ebola and how to deal with it. Following are examples of their work:

- Bassa Concerned Citizens Movement (BCCM) conducted Ebola contact tracing, using a form they designed with their mentor, WONGOSOL, and reported all findings to the County Ebola Task Force; through this effort they identified nine new Ebola cases.
- CODRA held town hall meetings in five Gbarnga communities with zonal heads, tribal governors, women and youths groups to address the issue of stigmatization of people infected with EVD.
- Bong Youth Association (BYA) held a community forum at which they screened a documentary film on Ebola.
- Inter-Visionary Artists (IVA) used “Community Forum Theatre,” an interactive drama form, in five communities of Ganta to engage people in asking and answering questions about Ebola
- Rural Human Rights Activists Programme (RHRAP) held community forums in three communities of Attington, Montserrado County; they formed working groups, one to encourage residents to turn over all burials to the burial team, and another to raise community awareness and report Ebola issues to the designated persons.

Some CSOs held Community Leaders Forums as the Main Partners were doing, discussed below in 5.11.1.2.

##### 5.11.1.2. HOLD FORUMS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.2.)

*Community Leaders Forums were held in 60 (sixty) communities for approximately 1,000 (one thousand) leaders in 13 (thirteen) counties by 10 (ten) CSML partner organizations.*

During the period, 10 Main Partners and mentee CSOs held Community Leaders’ Forums (CLFs) aimed at creating the space for community leaders to strategize and come up with methods they could put in place to manage potential violence as a result of primary and secondary impacts of EVD. During the quarter they held a total of 60 Forums averaging 17 participants each in 13 counties--Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru, Maryland, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, and Montserrado.



In general, there was a feeling of insufficient community involvement in the response and management of the virus. Many of the concerns raised were related to the government's management of the Ebola response, which many felt was ineffective, and their fears about the disease. Government's lack of transparent processes in supplying goods and services to their communities raised suspicions of corruption, while insufficient supplies of PPEs for traditional birth attendants increased their fears of contagion.

Simultaneously, they felt that the government's steps to reduce citizens' spread of the disease were causing different problems. Their denial of a burial process that permits the rituals they require for proper mourning was a serious issue. In addition the school closing prompted concerns about girls getting pregnant and boys getting involved in drugs because of lack of supervision. Another example was that the curfew prevented them from patrolling for robbers in their communities, which had raised rates of night-time robberies.

One key issue discussed in Panta District of Bong in December was people crossing the border into Liberia without getting permission from government. Citizens are very concerned because a group of commercial drivers traveling from Guinea attacked an immigration officer who stopped them from entering their community.

At the end of each forum, the community leaders identified key action points that they planned to implement within their communities. These included information sharing with community members and further engagement with the district or county level task forces on Ebola. Other ideas included establishing night watch teams to help curtail the increased incidence of armed robbery and keeping the community clean. With regard to teenage pregnancy there were discussions of how parents can work with their teens so that while schools are closed they can get involved in productive activities.

Follow up reports before the end of the quarter seem to illustrate that the Forum members were taking many of the steps they outlined. This usually included playing more active roles in making residents understand the truths and myths and encouraging prevention measures. Some set up task forces to visit and assist families under quarantine or put safety measures in place in order to re-open markets. At least one set up a committee for tutoring out-of-school children. The Kanweaken, River Gee community agreed to work with the County Health Team to identify land for building an ETU.

United Muslim Women Advocacy and Empowerment Organization (UMWAEO), which held CLFs in three Montserrado communities—Banjor, VOA I, and Kpalla—went a step further than most by distilling the information gleaned from the Forums to develop a Problem Tree as they had learned as part of the needs assessment in Project Cycle Management (Attachment 14).

A meeting was held in November with Montserrado County partners facilitating CLFs to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learned so far, both in organizing Forums and following up on Action Plans. A handout was distributed summarizing Forum objectives and sample questions for guiding Forum discussion (Attachment 15).

The IREX team is collating information from all of the CLFs to produce a database that highlights patterns and trends among issues that citizens are facing. This tool will enable more effective and informed national-level advocacy and engagement with government stakeholders on the "2nd tier" impacts of Ebola on communities. The database with recent updates is shown in Attachments 16 & 17.

FOGs were modified for seven MPs and one CSO to extend the date and add funds through January to continue the follow up with the community leaders to check on their progress and facilitate further meetings as appropriate.

#### 5.11.1.3. EBOLA AWARENESS CALL CENTER AND MOBILE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.3.)

Eight hundred and five (805) persons (410 males and 395 females) received information about Ebola and how to protect themselves and their families via the NAYMOTE Call Center.

As introduced in the previous Quarterly, NAYMOTE suggested a Call Center as a critical tool for disseminating information about Ebola to the public in all 15 counties. As described in section 5.9.2.1., the Call Center was also adopted for usage in NAYMOTE's Vote Smart Van outreach as a means of enhancing the impact of the volunteer network and van movement across the country. In October, the Call Center focused on Ebola prevention and reached 805 persons (410 males and 395 females). Those called were encouraged to reach out to their own families and communities via phone or one-on-one engagement to share the valuable health messages.

Also in October, NAYMOTE re-focused the efforts of the Vote Smart Vans towards Ebola awareness-raising. Between October 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, volunteers led several van rides in 18 communities in Montserrado and Margibi counties during which they educated 1,591 persons (781 males and 781 females) about Ebola prevention and what they should do if somebody in their family or community gets sick. The vans targeted "Hotspots"—those communities most affected by Ebola—and the messages focused on giving these individuals hope and ensuring them that they had an important role in ending the crisis in Liberia.

#### 5.11.1.4. CONDUCT "I KNOW MY RIGHTS" FORUMS TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S NARRATIVES ON EBOLA AND ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (WORKPLAN 1.7.1.4.)

Two "I Know My Rights" community engagement forums were held this quarter by partner LIWOMAC, however they focused on domestic violence and community sanitation (see section 5.5.3.4) rather than Ebola-specific topics. LIWOMAC identifies its topics for forums via preliminary community entry meetings and discussions, and thus the forum topics were reflective of these key priority issues as identified by the Harmon Field and Peace Island communities.

### 5.11.2. ENHANCE CITIZEN AND GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.)

#### 5.11.2.1. PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO CSOS TO PROMOTE CITIZEN AND GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.1.)

*Through The Dialogue platform, one thousand seven hundred fifty-two (1,752) persons were engaged in dialogues with government representatives and one another in talking through their issues related to Ebola.*

As controversies arose over government measures to mitigate the spread of Ebola, there was a need to encourage people-to-people engagement for sharing information and finding joint solutions to problems. Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) proposed to hold The Dialogue, a series of forums to "mitigate fear, conflict and suspicion amongst the population about government and partners' efforts aimed at eradicating Ebola." To show citizens that government was listening, every Dialogue had a government representative, and to get the word out broadly, LMDI promised to "record, cast, produce and broadcast the deliberations from all public forums." The first dialogue was held in September, with 13 occurring during the quarter under review in five counties hard hit by Ebola—Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Margibi, and Lofa.

The Dialogues were a success by any measure. Despite LMDI's efforts to keep the numbers within Ebola-safe guidelines, people were eager to talk and pushed into those that were held indoors. Besides the more than one thousand who witnessed a Dialogue, thousands more heard them by radio. Burning issues in each location were brought up because the format, focused on giving citizens a voice, made each Dialog unique. LMDI was able to attract important government spokespersons; they included county and district superintendents, Senators, county

health officers, and a district education officer. Nongovernment spokespersons included WHO representatives, an Ebola survivor, and CSO representatives.

It can safely be said that The Dialogue series had two important results: citizens across the country heard one another's experiences and got information and ideas for coping with them, while government responders and all those working in the Ebola fight got first-hand knowledge of what the people really believed, knew, and experienced.

#### 5.11.2.2. PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO CSOS TO PROMOTE CITIZEN AND GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.1.)

*A serious conflict between citizens and authorities of West Point was mediated by the Monrovia CSO Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) in a two-day meeting of twenty five (25) participants (15 males and 10 females).*

The West Point Ebola quarantine resulting in the shooting death of a child by the Armed Forces of Liberia left bad relations between residents and town authorities at a time when they needed the smoothest possible collaboration for fighting Ebola. Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) saw the problem as an opportunity to address the causes of the poor relations with the Commissioner and local leaders, not only for fighting Ebola but for better services and information sharing within the community in general. With a grant under the Ebola Response Plan, SWAA organized a two-day forum to discuss and address issues of conflict and lack of coordination between three groups—the Office of the Township Commissioner, inhabitants, and local leaders. SWAA reached out to the Township Commissioner, tribal leaders, District 7 Representative, leaders of women's groups and youth, and influential people to assemble a group of 25 participants (15 males and 10 females) for the two days.

The Commissioner was not present for the forum. Participants went on without her to discuss and reach agreement on the following set of issues impeding good relations:

- Lack of communication and coordination between the three groups on Ebola issues
- Lack of impact from the revenue collected by local authority
- Lack of trust in the community by local leaders
- Lack of accountability by local authorities
- Nepotism in the Office of the Commissioner

In an effort to mitigate the rift and foster peaceful co-existence, the forum came out with the following suggested action points:

- Hold regular coordination meetings
- Establish a functional township council
- Develop community leadership structures
- WYDA (mother organization of West Point youth organizations) should restructure its leadership by conducting an election
- Policies/rules for the community should be developed jointly by the three groups
- A grievances committee should be set up to channel all issues

After the December forum, SWAA learned that the Ministry of Internal Affairs had appointed a new Township Commissioner. SWAA will therefore wait until the appointment is finalized to start its follow up visits in January.

#### 5.11.2.3. ENCOURAGE COORDINATION AMONG NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY COUNCIL OF LIBERIA AND INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.2.)

Throughout the quarter, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL) and the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL) conducted six Ebola Response Coordination Meetings with an average of 18 persons from the National Muslim Council, Liberia Council of Churches and several civil society organizations. During these meetings certain key

priority issues were identified for follow-on advocacy and outreach including burial activities, the availability of hospitals and clinics, and support for health workers. Emboldened by these issues, the NCSCL and IRCL participated in engagement meetings with the National Technical Committee on Ebola, the National Social Committee, and other structures on Ebola prevention in Liberia and inserted the key viewpoints of their institutions so as to influence national decision making.

As part of their coordination efforts, the NCSCL and IRCL carried out an assessment of eight hospitals and clinics in 15 communities in Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties, which included visits to facilities and interviews with health care providers. The Assessment report produced as a result of these visits highlighted that many of the facilities were open throughout the Ebola crisis despite assumptions otherwise, and that many healthcare workers had left their facilities since the outbreak due to the high risk and low wages. The workers also voiced concern that the drugs and PPEs made available to their facility during the outbreak were not sufficient, which compounded the crisis.

Another key activity held this quarter was the high profile meeting held by the ICSC and IRCL for review and reflection of their coordination efforts and activities thus far. This meeting was attended by Sheikh Kafumba F. Konneh, President of the IRCL & National Muslim Council of Liberia; Archbishop Jonathan B.B. Hart, President of the Liberian Council of Churches and Vice President of the IRCL; Mrs. Frances R. Deigh Greaves, National Chairperson of the NCSCL; Mr. Daniel A. Towalid, National Vice Chairperson, NCSCL; Dr. Ruth Caesar, head of the Mano River Union Women Peace Network; Mrs. Roseline Toweh, Board Chair of the Women NGOs Secretariat; and others that included the Secretary Generals of the IRCL & NCSCL and the General Secretaries of the LCC and the NMCL.

At the meeting remarks were made by Bill Burke, Chief of Party of IREX; Sheikh Kafumba F. Konneh and Archbishop Hart of the IRCL; and Mrs. Greaves. Archbishop Hart emphasized the work the LCC is doing to fight against the EVD and the collaboration with the NMCL at the IRCL level. He pledged the support of the LCC to the coordination initiative. Sheikh Kafumba F. Konneh gave a historical reflection of the IRCL's formation and their work along with CSOs in the achievement of peace in Liberia. He said that such collaboration in the past can be replicated to fight against Ebola. He then pledged the IRCL and NMCL's support to the coordination, working in partnership with the NCSCL.

The high profile meeting adopted two additional key priority areas for intervention, as follows: 1. Messages from key religious leaders and national civil society leaders to people of Liberia on the campaign against EVD; 2. Regional approach of religious and CSOs leaders from the MRU basin to collaborate and coordinate activities to fight the Ebola crisis.

The meeting concluded with a press statement that outlined observations of communities' resentment on cremation; inadequate PPE's in hospitals, health centers and clinics; inadequate drugs and medical equipment; information gap between the people and government; and low motivation of health workers because of the unavailability of administrative allowances. The press statement further called on government to provide support to meet up with the challenges in the health centers and to caution political leaders, aspirants, and partisans to observe and collaborate in accordance with patriotism, law abiding citizenship, and modesty. Appreciation was extended to the government for interventions made so far, the international community for support in the fight against the EVD, and USAID and IREX for support to the IRCL and NCSCL.

#### 5.11.2.4. DEVELOP EBOLA AWARENESS MESSAGES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND INGOS AND DISTRIBUTE TO CRSS (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.3.)

In December, the Media Team began working with LIWOMAC and CEMESP to secure additional funding to produce Ebola messages as part of the national "Ebola Must Go" campaign initiated by President Sirleaf and being implemented in partnership with international NGOs.

The messages will focus on five major areas that CDC experts say are the most common way the virus is transmitted in Liberia. The messages will encourage people to practice safe burials, provide water and food for people in quarantined communities, embrace survivors, and report sick people.

The plan is to produce the messages in simple Liberia English and 16 languages. CEMESP and LIWOMAC will travel to the 15 counties to work with community radio stations to produce the messages in the language spoken in their communities. CEMESP and LIWOMAC submitted a proposal and budget to produce the messages. The Media Team submitted a concurrence to USAID for approval and finalized the FOG in December.

#### **5.11.2.5. PARTICIPATE IN EBOLA CLUSTER MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT AND INGOS (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.4.)**

During the period under review, the Senior Media Specialist continued to participate in the government and international communication committee meetings on Ebola. The meetings are held once a week to discuss how the international community can support the government's communication strategy on Ebola. The Senior Media Specialist was involved in planning and organizing the launch of the "Ebola Must Go" campaign and the efforts to engage media managers in rolling back Ebola. As discussed in section 5.11.2.4., production of messages grew out of CSML's participation in the cluster meetings.

#### **5.11.2.6. PROMOTE USAGE OF SMS INITIATIVE TO SHARE CITIZENS' PRIORITIES WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (WORKPLAN 1.7.2.5.)**

As described in section 5.7.1.2.1., the LMC and IREX held a Refresher Workshop with the community radio station hubs implementing the SMS Initiative to ensure that they are engaging their listeners specifically on Ebola. Particular emphasis was placed on using the results of opinion polls to conduct follow-on advocacy or outreach with government in regards to Ebola spending, decisions regarding quarantine, and fears related to the Election in the midst of the ongoing crisis.

#### **5.11.3. PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE (WORKPLAN 1.7.3.)**

##### **5.11.3.1. ESTABLISH SITUATION ROOM TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO EBOLA CRISIS (WORKPLAN 1.7.3.1.)**

In November, the LMC received the first milestone payment to begin work on the Situation Room in collaboration with the National Civil Society Task Force. The LMC and the task force held two meetings to outline plans for monitoring international and local response and media coverage of Ebola.

ALICOR and the PUL were appointed to head a committee to select six journalists to develop and produce a series of stories on Ebola. However, the two organizations have delayed in selecting the journalists. In December, IREX Senior Media Specialist reiterated to the LMC that it should select the journalists from the SCBDI mentees and from the pool of journalists at CSML partner CRSs since those reporters have received intense training on covering Ebola.

#### **5.11.4. STRENGTHEN MEDIA COVERAGE OF EBOLA CRISIS (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.)**

##### **5.11.4.1. PROVIDE MENTORING AND TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN EBOLA COVERAGE AMONG MONROVIA-BASED JOURNALISTS (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.1.)**

##### **5.11.4.1.1. CONDUCT REPORTING TRIPS FOR SCBDI MENTEES TO COVER EBOLA IN COUNTIES (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.1.2.)**

Under the Situation Room plan, six SCBDI reporters were to be assigned to report on Ebola and how money earmarked for Ebola is being spent around the country. The LMC and NCSTF were delayed in selecting reporters to

get the program started during the quarter. As discussed in section 5.5.2.1.1., 10 SCBDI reporters participated in five Ebola reporting trips.

#### 5.11.4.1.2. CONDUCT MEDIA ETHICS CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS FOR MEDIA MANAGERS IN MONROVIA (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.1.3.)

In November, the Media Team and its media partners planned to host the Media Ethics Conference on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, but those plans were canceled because of the Supreme Court's "stay order" halting all election-related activities. The plan was to discuss the impact of the Ebola crisis on the election focusing on the theme: "Media Ethics, Conflict Sensitivity Reporting and Best Practices for Reporting Elections."

When the court lifted the order, there was not enough time to host the conference before the December 20<sup>th</sup> Special Senatorial Election therefore this activity was discontinued.

#### 5.11.4.2. PROVIDE MENTORING AND TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN EBOLA COVERAGE AMONG CRS JOURNALISTS (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.2.)

During the height of the Ebola crisis, rumors caused fear, uncertainty, and tensions and contributed to the spread of the disease because some unsubstantiated rumors made it in the press without being investigated. For example, some media outlets reported that kola nuts or religious leaders could cure the disease, others that health workers were injecting people with the Ebola virus, a situation that caused people to distrust health workers.

To address the risks of rumor mongering in journalism, IREX held regional rumor management trainings for a total of 41 radio station managers and reporters in Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Bomi and Nimba counties, which included community radio staffers from all 15 counties.

The LMC is in ongoing contact with the trainees to ensure that they are following up on rumors before reporting them as facts. The trainees are also helping the Situation Room track government and international community funding and resources disbursed in the communities for Ebola (see 5.11.3.1.).

#### 5.11.4.2.1. CONDUCT TRAINING FOR CRS JOURNALISTS ON CONFLICT SENSITIVE REPORTING (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.2.1.)

IREX held a five-day training on conflict-sensitive election reporting for 16 community radio journalists from CSML's seven targeted counties at DEN-L campus in Gbarnga. See section 5.9.4.1. for more information.

#### 5.11.4.3. ENCOURAGE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WHILE ENSURING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR MEDIA CONTENT (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.3.)

The lack of a detailed media monitoring report slowed this activity under the Situation Room. Under the plan, the LMC was supposed to submit the findings of their media monitoring to CEMESP to work with the PUL in reviewing it and engaging media managers on its findings. IREX has had a series of conversations with the LMC Officer-in-Charge to speed up implementation of all aspects of the Situation Room. See the below section (5.11.4.4) for more details. In December, IREX's Senior Media Specialist also asked CEMESP to work with the PUL to see how they can work with the LMC to speed up this activity.

#### 5.11.4.4. PUBLICATION OF WEEKLY MEDIA MONITORING REPORT (WORKPLAN 1.7.4.4.)

The LMC and the Liberia Civil society Ebola Response Task Force were slow in monitoring media coverage of Ebola. The monitoring began in November and focused on three radio stations and six newspapers. Media outlets participating in the monitoring include Voice FM, LUX FM and LWDR; New Democrat, Daily Observer, Frontpage Africa, Women Voices, Informer, and Public Agenda.

During the period under review, 212 newspaper and 132 stories were examined. The monitoring focused on the number of stories produced by the outlets, the content, and amount of space devoted to Ebola and whether the



stories met ethical standards of journalism. The LMC submitted a report on the monitoring, but the report lacked detailed analysis. The Media Team is reviewing and will ask the LMC to produce a more detailed report.

## 6. GENDER AND YOUTH (WORKPLAN 2.)

### 6.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES (WORKPLAN 2.1)

#### 6.1.1. PRODUCE GENDER TRAINING TOOLKIT (WORKPLAN 2.1.1.)

The Gender and Youth Manager with support from the Senior Program Manager completed the final review of the toolkit. It will be tested with Gender Focal Points at a planned training in February and copies will be made and distributed to CSML partners.

#### 6.1.2. TRAIN GENDER FOCAL POINTS FROM MPS (WORKPLAN 2.1.2.)

The planned Gender Focal Point Training was rescheduled for February 2015.

#### 6.1.3. PROVIDE ONGOING GENDER AND YOUTH MENTORING WITH CSOS AND CRSS (WORKPLAN 2.1.3.)

During the reporting period, the Gender and Youth Manager conducted monitoring of Community Leaders Forums facilitated by CSML's partners held in Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties. Following each of the forums, gender and youth mainstreaming advice was provided to partners facilitating the forums. Lessons learned were used to improve on subsequent forums that were held. The G&Y Manager also monitored a political candidate debate in Ganta, Nimba County.

Also during the reporting period, the G&Y Manager provided inputs to proposals being developed to make them more gender inclusive.

The G&Y Manager co-facilitated a session on Women in Liberian Politics for the participants in the Girls' Media Frontier (GMF) program (see section 5.9.4.2.). Topics discussed included an overview of women's participation in politics, barriers faced by women in politics, and the role of the media in bridging those gaps. The young journalists were expected to take learning from the discussions and use them in ensuring that women and men were targeted and benefited equally from the program.

## 7. GRANTS (WORKPLAN 3.)

### 7.1. ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH USAID AND IREX POLICIES (WORKPLAN 3.1)

#### 7.1.1. ENSURE ALL SUBGRANT DOCUMENTS ARE PROPERLY FILED IN LINE WITH CSML CLOSEOUT SCHEDULE (WORKPLAN 3.1.1.)

During the reporting quarter, the Grants Office filed all available sub-grant documents in accordance with the CSML closeout schedule. The Grants Office also created new files for all subgrants awarded during the quarter and filed all relevant documents to their respective folders.

#### 7.1.2. ENSURE ALL SUBGRANT INFORMATION IS POSTED INTO IKNOW TRACKING SYSTEM REGULARLY (WORKPLAN 3.1.2.)

Upon conclusion of an internal audit of all subgrant files on iKnow (online sub-award tracking system), the Grants office uploaded one hundred and sixty five (165) assorted documents into the tracking system, including documentation for eight new Ebola-related subgrants.

## 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (WORKPLAN 4.)

### 8.1. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (WORKPLAN 4.1.)

#### 8.1.1. ADMINISTER THE PMP (WORKPLAN 4.1.1.)

##### 8.1.1.1. COLLECT PERFORMANCE MONITORING DATA (WORKPLAN 4.1.1.1.)

During the month of October, the M&E team continued the collection of PMP data for all of CSML's 44 indicators. The Performance Management Plan was updated to include all of CSML Year Four data and the team entered all CSML's quarterly, semiannual, and annual data into the Performance Indicator Database System (PIDS) which is viewable by USAID.

The M&E team during October collected PMP data from nineteen CRS partners via phone on the indicator: Amount of advertising and additional fees/revenue generated by participating media outlets. Data was collected from each partner on their paid advertising and announcements, fees from service rendered, donations, fund raising and additional revenue generated from October 2014 to September 2015. This data will provide information as to whether and to what extent partner CRSs have been able to boost their annual revenues through the financial and marketing trainings and mentoring they have benefitted from over the period and how they are utilizing said trainings to improve their long-term sustainability.

The team provided data on ten indicators to the Chief of Party for onward submission to USAID Liberia in October. The data will assist with USAID's Portfolio Review for the period from October 2013 - September 2014.

During the month of October, the team worked with WANEP's mentor, Wolo Fannoh from Grand Gedeh and two enumerators to complete the collection of data for the Survey of Perceptions in Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties. The mentor was provided with on-the-phone training from the M&E Team to allow them to coordinate the survey on the ground in the two counties due to travel restrictions because of the current Ebola crisis. The team is expected to take a maximum of four days to complete the surveys in the two counties. Data collected from the Survey of Perceptions from Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Nimba Counties were compiled, edited, and entered into the Excel database for summary and analysis during the months of November and December. A draft of the report will be developed in January 2015.

During the month of November, the M&E team developed a tracking sheet to collate all indicators for the Ebola Response Plan in consultation with the Program Team. The tracking sheet clearly tracks the indicators aligning them with their objectives, the source of the data, the method of data collection, frequency of collection, status on indicators and the due dates of all the Ebola Response Plan Indicators.

The M&E Department during the month of November recruited and trained debate evaluators in eleven counties to observe and listen to senatorial debate discourses arranged by the PUL, ALICOR, and the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) with funds from IREX. The evaluators use a scoring instrument to rate the quality of debate moderation and the content of each debate. The instrument evaluates the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities demonstrated by the moderators of each debate such as: how debate moderators invite each candidate in the debate to make opening statement, clearly instruct participants that the debates are issues driven, keep candidate to the agreed time limit, control the tempo of the debate, focus on one question at a time, end the debate with closing statements from each candidate, seek factual clarification and allow speaker to complete statement. As most of the debates were held simultaneously, the M&E Manager along with the Senior RSC Coordinator and Senior Program Manager made field visits to Grand Bassa, Bomi and Bong Counties to monitor the debates in those counties.

#### 8.1.1.2. UPDATE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REFERENCE SHEETS TO INCLUDE UP TO DATE INDICATOR DATA FROM YEAR FOUR (WORKPLAN 4.1.1.2.)

There are 44 indicators under the main Program with each having a reference sheet that is used as the basis for the length-of-program monitoring of each of the indicators chosen for the program objectives. These reference sheets are to be updated frequently throughout the length of the program. During the month of November, the M&E Team started updating these tracking sheets under the PMP, and maintained consistent formats.

Each indicator sheet provides information on:

- Indicator definition, unit of measurement, and any data breakout requirements;
- Data acquisition method, data sources, timeliness for data acquisition, and person responsible for data acquisition;
- Plans for data analysis, review, and reporting;
- Any data quality issues, including any actions taken or planned to address data limitations; and
- Notes on baselines, targets and data calculations methods.

## 9. ATTACHMENTS

1. Revised CSML Tear Five Workplan Narrative
2. IREDD Budget Forum Communique
3. Ebola Safety Tips (distributed to journalists)
4. Girls' Media Frontiers Agenda Week One
5. Girls' Media Frontiers Agenda Week Two
6. Girls' Media Frontiers Training Manual
7. Girls' Media Frontiers Consultant Report
8. ECC Press Release on Electoral Violence
9. ECC Press Release on Front Page Africa/NEC Financial Controversy
10. ECC Election-Day Observers Training Manual
11. ECC Statement on Outcome of the Special Senatorial Election
12. Report on Suspected Social Enterprise Development Plagiarism
13. Judging Scorecard for Pitches
14. Problem Tree developed by UMWAEO
15. Community Leader Forum (CLF) Objectives and Possible Questions
16. Community Leader Forum Database of Findings
17. Community Leader Forum Database of Findings